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MENG MODEL FORTHCOMING RELEASES

Meng Model has announced three forthcoming armour kits.

During the Cold War, Soviet T-10M tanks pointed their barrels at NATO AFVs on the other side of the Iron Curtain. However, they didn't get a chance to do battle with NATO and finally retired from service in 1993. They did, however, participate in Operation Danube - the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

MENG's brand new TS-018 1/35 scale Soviet T-10M Heavy Tank plastic model kit is 305mm long and 97mm wide. Details of the real vehicle are represented, including the front hull structure, the "turtle shell" turret and the long barrel.

Meng released Kit No. TS-012, their 1:35 scale German Panzerhaubitze 2000 Self-Propelled Howitzer in June 2014, which became quite popular with modellers.

Meng has now announced a new version of the PzH2000 kit with add-on armour as seen on the battlefield of Afghanistan.

Four marking schemes of German and Netherland armies will be provided.

Finally, Meng has also announced the future release of a 1:35 scale German Main Battle Tank Leopard 2 A4, Kit No. TS-016. This represents a fifth batch vehicle. You can also build a Leopard 2 A4 of the sixth, seventh or eighth batch with parts in the kit.

We'll have more information on all three new models closer to release.

Thanks to Meng Model for the information and images ***www.meng-model.com***

PANZERHAUBITZE 2000
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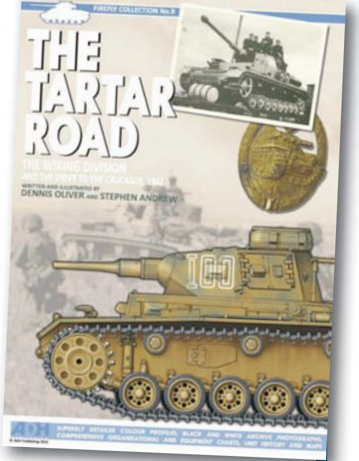
TARTAR ROAD FROM OLIVER PUBLISHING GROUP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Oliver Publishing Group's newest title, The Tartar Road - The Wiking Division and the drive to the Caucasus, 1942 is available for order now. A prequel to Viking Summer, this book covers the SS-Wiking division during the battles for the Caucasus oilfields in the summer of 1942. The illustrations also feature vehicles of other units that served in southern Russia at the time in an effort to bring some clarity to the semi-official camouflage schemes and colours that were coming into use at the time.

Stephen Andrew and Dennis Oliver share the illustration duties and this is going to be a permanent feature from now on. As always the book will contain black and white archive photos, maps, diagrams and more.

For the rest of the year Oliver Publishing is planning the same treatment they gave to the STUG to two more favourites:

Panther - Medium Tank Units in The East. Bagration To Berlin. Volume 1 and 2. First volume ready by the second week of April with the second volume completed in mid-November.

Tiger - Heavy Tank Units in The East. Bagration To Berlin. Volume 1 and 2. First volume ready by the third week of June with the second volume completed in late August.

Oliver Publishing titles are available online from ADH Books ***www.adhbooks.com***

ICM NEW RELEASES

ICM has two new releases, both available right now.

The first is an all-new 1:35 scale Horch 108 Typ 40, WWII German Personnel Car.

This is the first in what will undoubtedly be a series of Horch variants from ICM in 1:35 scale.

The model features a detailed chassis, engine and cab interior. Four marking options are offered on the decal sheet.

Next up is a new 1:35 scale set of 12 plastic figures representing WWI soldiers of different nationalities.

Item No. 35690, WWI Eastern Front, comprises four WWI Austro-Hungarian Infantry figures, four German infantry figures and four Russian infantry figures. ICM advises that these all have correct details on uniforms and equipment.

Thanks to ICM for the images and information ***www.icm.com.ua***

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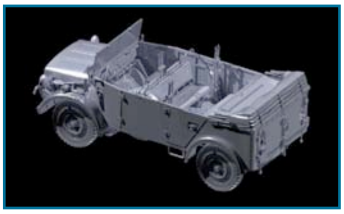

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Premier Japanese model company Tamiya has released Spitfire Mk.IXc, Mk.VIII and Mk.XVIe kits in 1:32 scale. These three kits are simply superb in terms of detail, engineering innovation, fit and presentation. In the warm afterglow of their release, many modellers have declared Tamiya's 1:32 scale late model Spitfires to be the some of the best scale model aircraft kits of all time.

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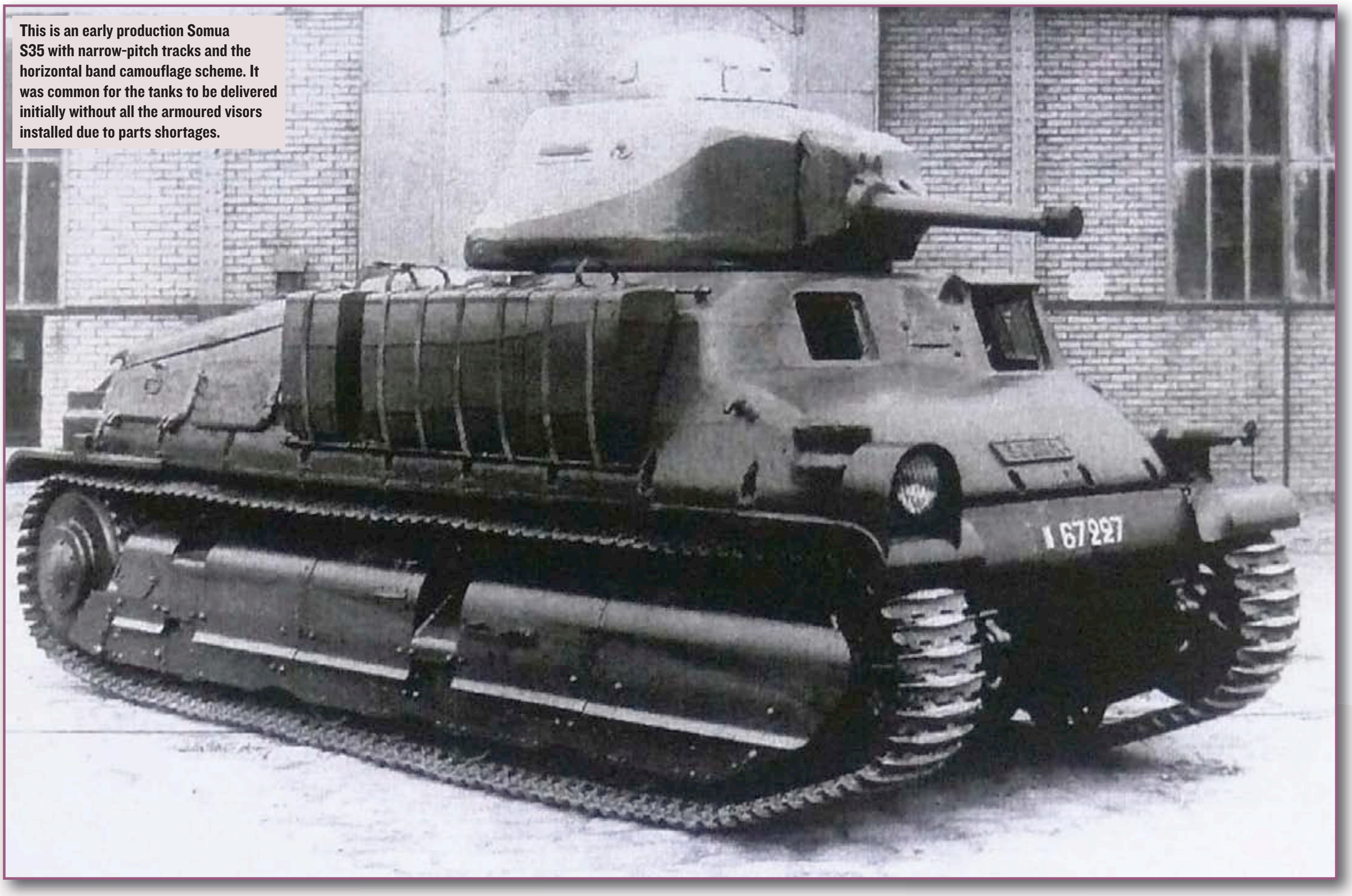

This is an early production Somua S35 with narrow-pitch tracks and the horizontal band camouflage scheme. It was common for the tanks to be delivered initially without all the armoured visors installed due to parts shortages.

FRENCH SOMUA S35 CAVALRY TANK

Bruce Culver discusses the origins, design and operations of the French Somua S35 Cavalry Tank.

The end of the Great War, WWI, left indelible marks across Europe and the nations that had fought in it. Several countries had suffered the destruction of farmland, towns and infrastructure and the economic devastation that accompanied this. The monetary costs of fighting the war had reduced many countries to a highly indebted state, which affected their ability to recover and rebuild. Most importantly, the unprecedented loss of an entire generation of young men cast a pall over all the combatants, causing huge social problems: caring for the widows and families of the fallen and trying to cope with the loss of workers, farmers and others who would have supported the economies of Europe.

As important, the bad effects of the war also affected the efforts of the European nations to maintain or upgrade their military forces. The Allies, victorious even with their horrendous losses, tended to see their conduct of the war as ultimately successful, and the general public response was never to go to war again. Thus, in the Allied General Staffs, there was little impetus to develop new weapons or tactics, such developments often being pushed by small groups of forward-looking officers and theoreticians, almost as often to little effect. Further, military budgets were cut to the bone in many countries, to provide funds for reconstruction and reflecting the distaste for conflict. Many armies and other services had to make do with equipment left over from the war, often using it or modestly improved developments through the 1920s.

The final influence on the advancement of western military forces was the nature of the war on the Western Front, with its static trench warfare, heavy use of artillery and the primacy of massed machine guns in the defence. These influenced not only infantry tactics but also the design and employment of artillery and armour. In addition, the huge losses of troops and the resulting smaller population of military age men in the 1920s and early 1930s affected the types of weapons and vehicles proposed. There was a tendency to concentrate on smaller armoured vehicles than had been used in the Great War, both to save money compared to larger, more complex designs and also to use fewer crew members, a consideration with smaller populations.

Beyond the effects of the war, there was generally a failure to appreciate that the future of military operations might be considerably different from past experiences. Complacency in the victory over Imperial Germany tended to solidify existing doctrines and tactics. As mentioned, even newer designs of tanks and other military fighting vehicles tended to emulate the designs used in the war, assuming that they would be used in much the same way against similar enemy forces. While there was a good deal of experimentation in new vehicle development in the 1920s and early 1930s, the designs that were accepted for production were often almost obsolescent in concept.

Finally, the Allied attempt to cripple Germany economically and militarily worked well enough in the 1920s that a number of people felt the German problem had been solved and that a weakened Germany would no longer be a threat to the rest of Europe. Instead, Germany, bending some rules and breaking others, developed the best-trained military force in Europe during the 1920s and early 1930s – but that was in the future.

France in particular had suffered greatly during the Great War. Not only had large numbers of French soldiers been killed or wounded, but also much of the war had been fought on French soil, resulting in much destruction and a weaker economy after the war. In addition, the comparatively aged French General Staff did not consider the need to change their doctrine or tactics, and their basic approach was to rework the rules for fighting based on the trench warfare on the Western Front. They also developed a very hierarchical chain of command that left little independent tactical control to the lower formation commanders. Well-known were Col. Charles de Gaulle's attempts to influence the General Staff to consider the theories of J.F.C. Fuller and Basil Liddell-Hart, both advocating a more mobile and aggressive use of armour in independent units, but they were largely unsuccessful.

BETWEEN THE WARS

The antiquated doctrines of the French General Staff in turn influenced the design of the tanks the French Army would use in the coming decades. The hordes of surplus Renault FT light tanks supplied the army's needs through the 1920s, and there was also a small number of the gigantic Char 2C, designed in WWI and kept in service as a breakthrough tank. And this was a reason that most of the French defence budget went to the massive construction of the defensive fortifications of the Maginot Line along the eastern border of France with Germany. The Maginot Line was the ultimate development of the static Western Front trench system, and did, in a perverse way, prove to be nearly impregnable – the Germans did not attack the Maginot Line forts in strength, but instead bypassed the northern end of the line where it had been halted at the Belgian border.

The French armament industry, however, was capable of developing a number of new tanks to various specifications, and a number of these were innovative solutions to the need for effective vehicles. But the army didn't have a useful budget for rearmament until 1932-33, and the highly defensive doctrine of the General Staff resulted in tanks more suited for a Great War type of action. The French classified their tanks much as the British did – infantry tanks to accompany infantry at more or less a walking pace, cavalry tanks suitable to exploit a breakthrough in manoeuvre and a smaller number of true breakthrough tanks. Even on a limited budget, the French were able to produce a whole new generation of tanks that in many ways were superior to those of other nations.

It should be noted that in the early 1930s, most tanks were designed to fairly limited and well-known specifications. The majority of new designs were intended as infantry support tanks and this were built with machine guns as the main armament, with armour suitable for defeating armour-piercing rifle calibre ammunition. This included the first German light tanks, the Pz.Kpfw. I and II, neither of which was intended as a training tank in 1933-34. The machine gun armament of the Pz.Kpfw. I was to suppress enemy infantry fire, and the PzKpfw II added a 2cm small cannon to deal with expected enemy armour. They were fully in the mainstream of European tank design in 1933-34. It was not until the Spanish Civil War in 1937 that the limitations of light tanks were fully realized.

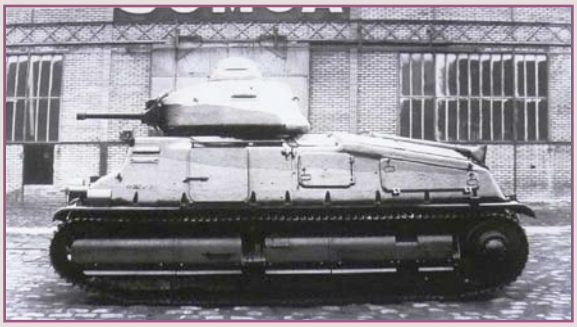
French light infantry tanks (designated as Chars Legers) were very much like other European light tanks, with mostly machine gun or short howitzer armament and relatively thin armour. The best known and most successful example was the Renault R35.

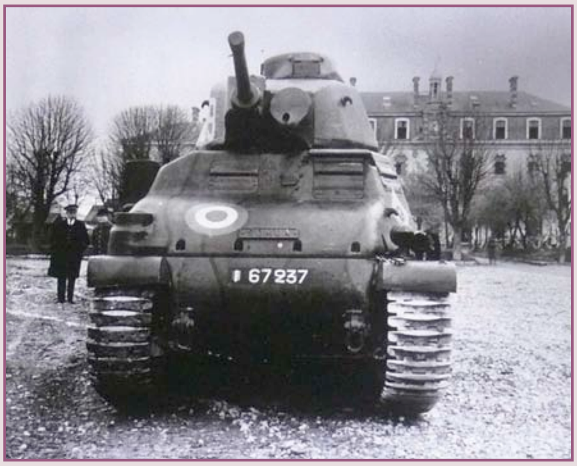
There were also medium and heavy infantry tanks. The medium infantry tanks were called Chars de Bataille, and included the Char D1, D2 and the Char B1/B1 bis. Because only the ancient Char 2C was in the heavy infantry tank role, the task of breakthrough tanks fell to the medium tanks, especially the Char B1 and Char B1 bis.

FRENCH CAVALRY TANKS

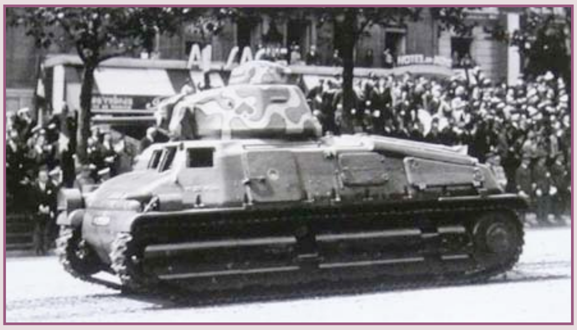
Inter-service rivalries held sway in France as they did elsewhere, and tanks for the cavalry, intended to exploit breakthroughs and penetrate deep into the enemy rear lines, were named Automitrailleuses (armoured cars). Two classes of cavalry tanks were developed – Automitrailleuses de Reconnaissance or light reconnaissance tanks, such as the AMR33 and AMR35 and the Automitrailleuses de Combat or armoured combat tanks, such as the AMC34, AMC35 and the Somua S35. The specifications for the armoured combat tanks demanded good speed as well as armour similar to similar infantry tanks, and a gun suitable for defeating both infantry targets and enemy tanks.

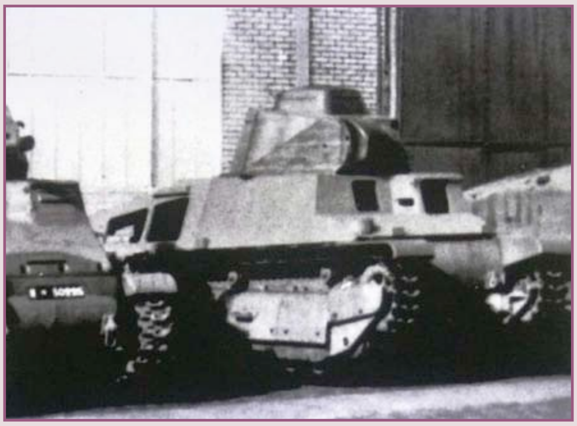
The Somua cavalry tank was built by the Societe d'Outillage Mecanique et d'Usinage d'Artillerie (SOMUA) and began as an Automitrailleuse de Combat (AMC) Somua AC3 machine gun carrier. This was built to a new 1934 ▶

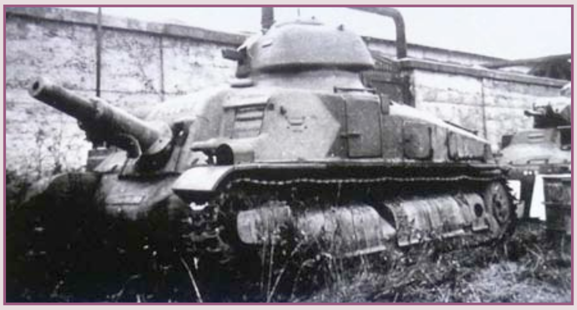

The Somua S35 had a suspension very similar to that of the Czech LT 35 – both were comprised of double bogies with equalized segments sprung with leaf springs. These suspensions required much maintenance but were hidden behind the lower side armour.



An early production Somua S35 illustrates the fairly sharp corners of the cast hull. The casting technology was advanced for the time but quality control was a problem, as some of the castings were of poor quality and not fully resistant to enemy fire.


Even though incomplete, Somua S35s were used in parades like this one to show the extent of France's military preparations during the late 1930s. Despite the archaic appearance of the chassis, the Somua S35 had a top road speed of 41km/h (25MPH).


The Somua S40 was a development of the S35, differing in having a welded hull and a new turret to alleviate the delays in casting S35 hulls and turrets. The turret on this prototype is a wooden mockup. The S40 would have had improved performance.


The Somua SAu 40 was an experimental derivative of the S35 that mounted a 75mm APX gun in the forward hull. Problems with the gun delayed the project and only this prototype was built. It saw limited service with an improvised armour unit in June 1940.

specification calling for heavier armour than previous types, as the tank was for the cavalry. The initial prototype appeared in 1935. An improved model, the AC4, was then built in a four-vehicle pre-series in 1935 and tested until early 1938, but accepted as the new standard medium cavalry tank in early 1936. It was designated Automitrailleuse de Combat modele 1935S (AMC 1935 S) and fifty were ordered in a first batch. The tank was generally known as the Somua S35, S for Somua and 1935 for the year it appeared.

SOMUA S35 DESIGN FEATURES

The new S35 had a number of interesting features. In common with a number of other French tank designs of the mid-1930s, the S35 was built from castings welded together to form the hull and turret. There were two longitudinally divided plates for the hull floor and two upper hull castings, forward and rear. This simplified construction and in theory was safer than the usual riveted construction of many other tanks of the period. The hull castings ranged from 40mm at the sides and 20mm at the rear to 47mm for the glacis, considerably better protection than any other similar tank at the time. In practice, the delayed deliveries of the castings slowed production and increased costs. Also, there were quality control problems with some castings that did not meet the original armour hardness specifications. The Somua S35 was also narrower than ideal to save weight with the thicker armour and this in turn limited the size of the turret ring.

The chassis was designed by Eugene Brillie, an engineer who had worked on the Czech LT.35 light-medium tank and was inspired by the LT. 35's suspension. It was a complex affair with two bogie trucks on each side of the hull, each truck having four wheels in double equalized frames, sprung with elliptical leaf springs. It required a good deal of maintenance and on the S35 the entire suspension was hidden behind protective armour, making servicing more difficult. It did provide adequate performance – the S35's top road speed was 40km/h (25MPH) and cross-country performance was generally acceptable. Power came from a SOMUA 140kW (190HP) V-8 petrol engine, and the engine section featured an automatic fire-fighting system. The first 50 production tanks had narrow-pitch tracks later replaced by tracks with a wider pitch.

SOMUA SHORTCOMINGS

The turret of the Somua S35 was its tactical downfall. French turret design had been driven by a shortage of crew members and the desire to use one design for several tanks. The APX-1 turret was derived from that of the larger Char B bis, and like the turrets for all French tanks of the period, was limited to one man – the tank commander. The S35 turret, designated APX-1CE, was very similar to the Char B's APX-4 except for a larger turret ring, which allowed the radio operator or mechanic to serve as a loader in most situations. But the tank commander was still expected to command his crew, fire the 47mm main gun, look for enemy tanks and others in his own unit and communicate with other tanks during an engagement, a task made more difficult in that he had to fight buttoned up, as the cupola had no hatches. Communication was often by flags or signals as only some of the S35s had radios (often kept for commanders' tanks due to shortages).

The 47mm SA 35 main gun was capable of penetrating the armour of the supposed main opponent of the S35, the German PzKpfw III medium tank, while the armour was largely effective against the Pz.Kpfw. III's 3.7cm main weapon. However, the turret sighting devices were poorly planned and while individually good, they required the commander to adjust his position in the turret, meaning that to fire the gun he often lost his target and had to re-acquire it. This flaw, plus the lack of good situational awareness in the buttoned-up turret, made operating the Somua S35 more difficult than necessary. The commander did not have a seat fastened to the turret ring to rotate with the turret, but sat on a small seat mounted on a floor-mounted pedestal that could be raised to use the cupola sights or lowered to fire the main gun. An 8mm Modele 1931 light machine gun could be fixed as a coaxial weapon when needed.

The technical shortcomings of the Somua S35 were only part of the story. The French General Staff's plan for defence of the country relied on the Maginot Line to serve as the primary line of defence and thus other units were often subordinated to a planned defence against an assumed attack through Belgium, a replay of the Great War's Schlieffen Plan, used by Germany to strike through the Low Countries into northern France. In addition, past experience in the Spanish Civil War had proved that the light

The Somua S35 was technically one of the best tanks of the late 1930s, with a decent gun, excellent armour and good automotive performance. Poor tactics and equally poor communications kept many French armoured units from achieving success in 1940.

As was common with most tanks, vision for the commander and crew inside the Somua S35 was poor. In addition, the S35 commander had to act as gunner and sometimes loader, plus coordinating other tanks if he was a platoon or company commander.

The Battle of Hannut-Merdorp and the Gembloux Gap was the largest tank battle of WW2 until the epic Kusrk offensive in Russia in 1943. These Somua S35s were probably from the cavalry's 2e DLM, near Gembloux, where they helped halt a German advance.

This S35 of the 2e Cuirassiers was knocked out near Merdorp on 13 May 1940 during the epic engagement between Hannut-Merdorp and Gembloux. The French scored a tactical victory in halting the German advance, but the German attack was a successful feint.

Battlefields all across France and Belgium were littered with the carcasses of hundreds of tanks, guns and vehicles. Here are a Somua S35 and a Hotchkiss H39 abandoned. Many of these tanks were repaired and issued to German units for police and occupation duty.

Chars Legers of the infantry were no longer viable on the modern battlefield, now dominated by better-armed tanks like the German PzKpfw III and the German 3.7cm Pak 36 anti-tank gun.

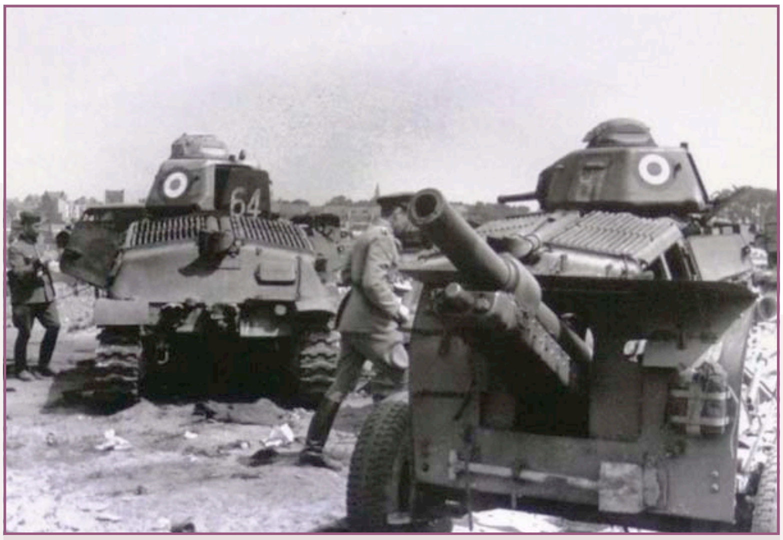
The shortage of Somua S35 tanks (only 430 built before the German invasion in 1940) meant that the new French armoured formations had to be composite units with both S35s and the smaller and generally inferior Hotchkiss H39, a tank the French cavalry did not want. The main cavalry armour formation was the division legere mecanique (DLM), the light mechanized division. Each was composed of two brigades legere mecanique (BLM), light mechanized brigades. These two brigades, though carrying the same designation, had different tasks and organizations. One contained two regiments de combat, encompassing all the tank units in the division. Each regiment consisted of two squadrons of tanks, with a mixed complement of Somua S35s and Hotchkiss H39s. The second BLM contained a regiment de decouverte, the reconnaissance regiment, equipped with Panhard AMD 35 armoured cars, and a regiment de dragons portes (RDP), a motorized dragoon (heavy infantry) regiment carried in trucks, often the Laffly S20TL, a six-wheel cross-country truck suitable for manoeuvre in the field.

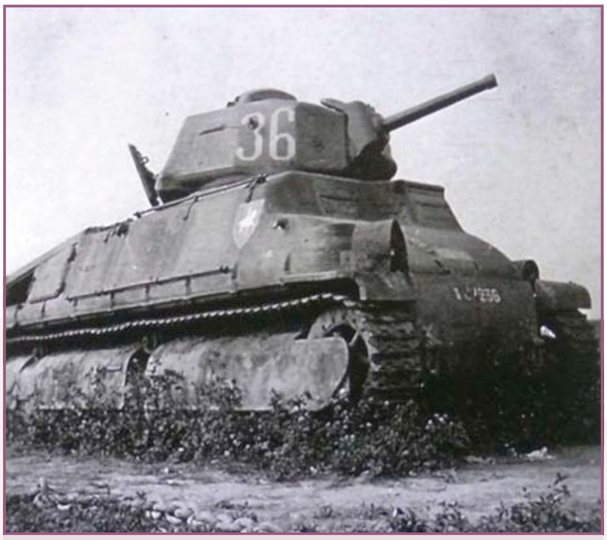
TANK STRATEGIES

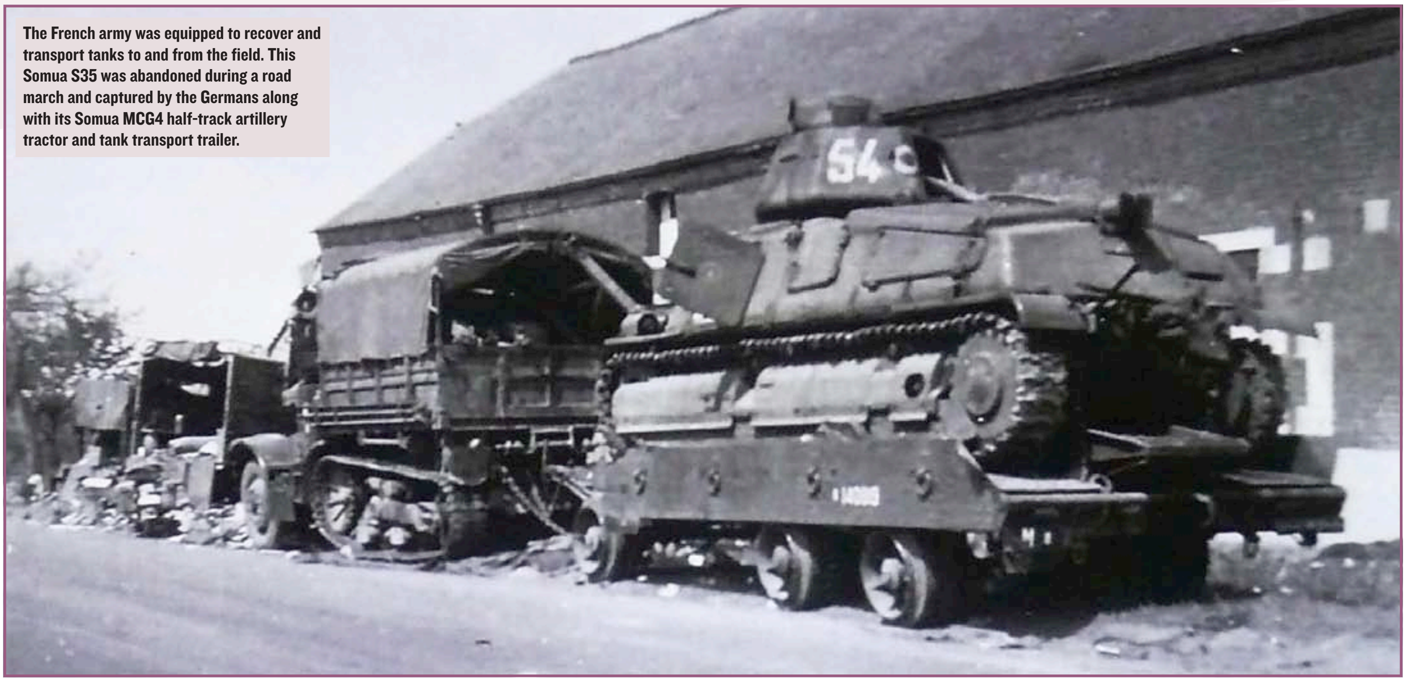
The invasion of France in May 1940 brought together two old enemies and two vastly different armies, each the product of its nation's history and pre-war planning. The Germans also had the benefit of having participated in the Spanish Civil War, and the occupation of Austria and Czechoslovakia in 1938, where a number of problems with the tank of the time appeared and were worked out.

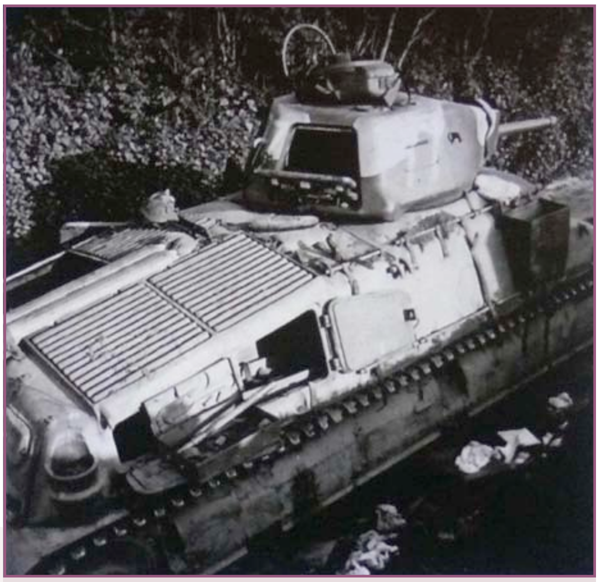
As the loser in the Great War, Germany had been more willing to learn from its defeat, and even with the severe limitations of the Versailles Treaty, the Reichswehr, Germany's post-war army, was able to develop new weapons and tactics, using facilities at Kazan in Russia. The Germans also used the limits on military personnel (100,000 men total) to cross-train most of its military personnel so that later, they proved extraordinarily able to find excellent leaders down to the low-ranking NCO (sergeant) level. The need to transport limited troops quickly to any area on Germany's borders led to the construction of the Autobahn highway system.

Most importantly, Germany's limited military led to the creation of an aggressive armour doctrine to use their resources to the best effect. Tank doctrines had not been established in the early 1930s and the Germans were more willing to adopt new tactics and formations. They started with the history of the WWI Sturmtruppen, specialized assault troops used to attack enemy trenches and outposts. The creators of the new German tank force, Generalmajor Oswald Lutz and Oberstleutnant Heinz Guderian, felt that tanks could be the modern version of the Sturmtruppen, and lead the ▶

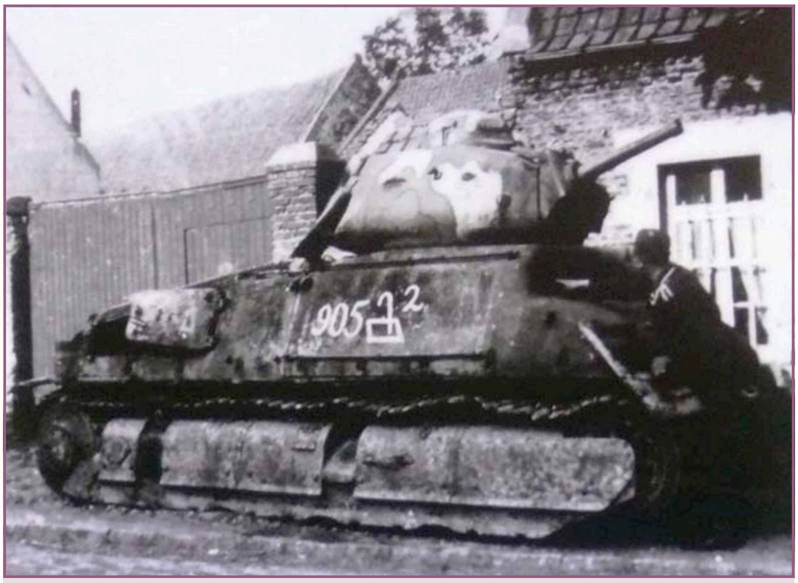

Wrecked vehicles like these two Somua S35 cavalry tanks littered the fields near Dunkirk for months. Thousands of vehicles, among them almost 300 Somuas, were refurbished or rebuilt and issued to German and Vichy French units, serving on several fronts.


This early production Somua S35 of the 4e DCR of the 3e Cuirassiers was knocked out in the May 1940 battles between Hannut- Merdorp. The unit insignia was often the only way to distinguish one unit's tanks from another. Many of these Somuas were repaired.

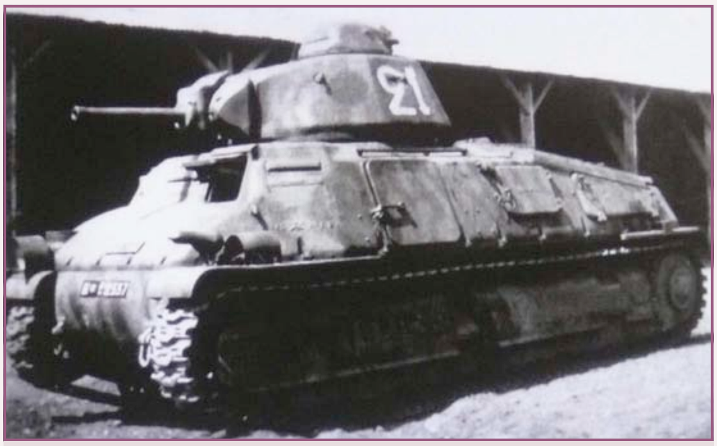

The French army was equipped to recover and transport tanks to and from the field. This Somua S35 was abandoned during a road march and captured by the Germans along with its Somua MCG4 half-track artillery tractor and tank transport trailer.



This Somua S35 shows the rear deck and the interesting turret rear hatch design. When open, the rear turret hatch has the outside facing up and the inside facing down, with a complex hinge system to operate it.

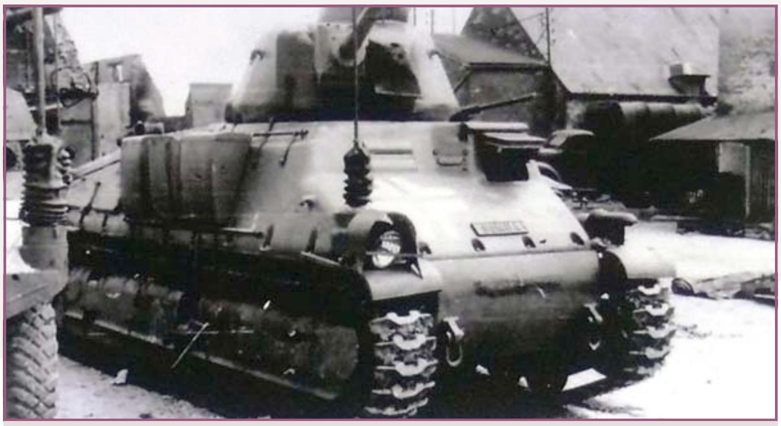


An interesting anachronism, this derelict Somua S35 carries the 1940 style of French camouflage, but the painted marking on the side is for the mid-war German StuG Abt 905, which was formed in 1942 and served for a short time in France in early 1943.

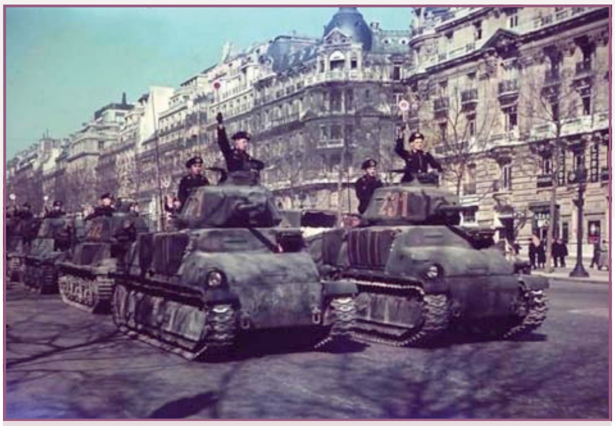


Following the armistice in June 1940, a number of Somua S35s were sent to French Morocco to reinforce troops there. Most were assigned to the 12e Regiment de Chasseurs d'Afrique. This unit operated with Allied troops following the Torch landings in 1942.

The Somuas served with the 12e RCA through the end of the campaign in North Africa alongside British and American units in Tunisia. Here a crew services the track. After the African fighting was over, the Somua S35s were replaced by M4 Shermans.



The Germans captured almost 300 Somuas after the end of the French campaign and issued them to a number of German units for secondary duties such as police units, anti-partisan duties and second-line reserves. Many of the tanks had larger markings like this.



A German tank unit parades down a Paris street with two Somua S35s leading Hotchkiss H39 light tanks. Though outclassed as main battle tanks, these French machines were quite capable for such second-line duties, and increased the Germans' supply of tanks.

assault. It should also be noted that combined arms tactics and tank vs. tank combat were still concepts being developed. The Panzer Divisions initially operated in two forces – the tanks and other support weapons in the Panzer Brigade and the infantry units in the Schuetzen Brigaden advancing and exploiting the gains made by the armour. This was necessary because the German infantry in 1940 was almost all truck-borne and had to fight dismounted from their vehicles, which lacked cross-country capabilities. Not until armoured personnel carriers with good cross-country performance became available could the tanks and infantry fight well at the same pace.

In contrast, the French strategy was purely defensive, encouraged by manpower shortages resulting from the casualties of the Great War, and based in part on the Maginot Line series of fortifications along the Alsace-Lorraine border. Contrary to legend, the Maginot Line served as intended – the Germans did not breach it during the 1940 invasion, but went around the northern end through Belgium and the Ardennes. In addition, French control of its forces was much more conservative, and orders flowed from the General Staff with less room for independent movement or reaction to local conditions. Also, the French army had not received any of its newer tanks until 1938, and had been forced to train on obsolete WWI FTs and other old weapons, making much of the training useless.

The French have been criticised for distributing their tanks among a number of divisions, but in fact the Germans concentrating all their tanks into Panzer Divisions was the more unusual practice and as the war progressed, all the major powers split their tanks units between dedicated armoured divisions and separate independent battalions or regiments to support infantry divisions. France's rigid and too-distant command structure failed.

Faced with the prospect of the German attack coming through Belgium as in the previous war, the French and British had to plan to stop such an attack before it reached France itself. It was decided to place two of the best French divisions, the 2e and 3e DLM in position to drive into Belgium, supported by the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) to stop a German thrust and hold long enough for French and British infantry to occupy the ground and halt the German advance.

PANZERS MOVE WEST

Unbeknownst to the Allies, the drive through Belgium was a feint to disguise the risky but ultimately successful German attack through the Ardennes forests in Belgium, well south of the fighting in northern Belgium. Even many German generals felt the Ardennes were unsuitable for a tank attack, but Generalleutnant Erich von Manstein, commander of Heeresgruppe A (Army Group A), pushed for the Ardennes thrust as a means of avoiding the bitter stalemate that had marked the Western Front in WWI. Manstein assigned two Panzer Divisions to the Heeresgruppe B force conducting the northern attack to convince the Allies that it was the main assault, a repeat of the Schlieffen plan of 1914.

The invasion began on 10 May 1940 with an attack on the Netherlands and developed into a push toward the centre of Belgium, supported by the 3. and 4. Panzer Divisions. The situation was fairly fluid, but the German advance had the intended effect - the French ordered the 2e and 3e DLM to advance into Belgium to halt the German advance. Forward reconnaissance units ranged far ahead of the main force, whose objective was a place referred to as the Gembloux Gap, between Brussels and Namur in eastern Belgium.

Although the original plan had been to defend along the Dyle river in Belgium, an alternate plan was to push to the Scheldt river, not as deep inside Belgium. The front commander, Gen. Georges, pushed his units according to the original plan, even though there was concern they could be trapped by German tanks and the Luftwaffe. Nonetheless French units reached the area between Hannut and the Gembloux Gap, an open area of farms and small villages, perfect for tank warfare with few natural obstacles.

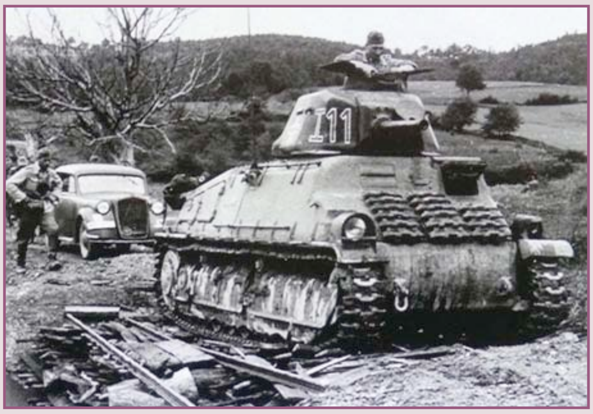
FRENCH RESISTANCE

The French defences used the villages as strong points with infantry and anti-tank guns supported by the Hotchkiss light tanks. The heavier Somua S35s were held back a short distance to defeat any German penetrations of the forward defense line. The stage was set for the largest tank battle in history, a status not exceeded until the massive armour engagement at Kursk three years later. Over 1700 tanks fought at Hannut-Gembloux, and the choice of victor depends on the story being told.

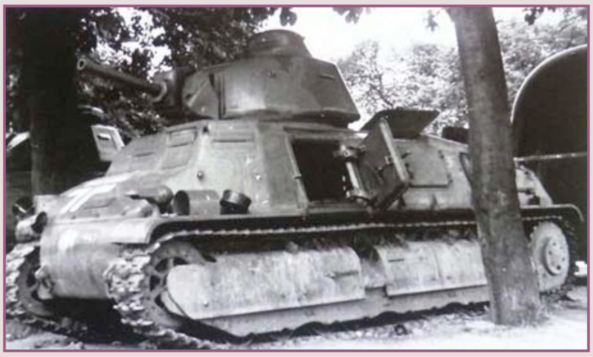
Tactically, the French armoured units won – they halted the German advance at Gembloux after losing Hannut, in the heaviest tank vs. tank fighting yet experienced. Strategically, the German feint succeeded in drawing the best French units to northern Belgium and tying them down as the main German attack came out of the Ardennes, crossing the Meuse river at Sedan and driving across northern France in von Mansteins' Sichelschnitt (sickle cut) maneuver to separate the northern French army and the BEF from the main French forces to the south and trapping them against the Belgian and French coasts. The courage and élan of many of the French armour and cavalry units were spent fighting a second "phony war" while the main German force bypassed them to eventual victory.

In spite of the limitations of the French command system and the poor communications, and the real disadvantages of the French tanks, the small one-man turrets and inadequate anti-tank guns on most types, the French cavalry units at Hannut and Gembloux put up a stiff and often aggressive resistance, surprising the Germans with counter-attacks and the effective use of anti-tank guns to support

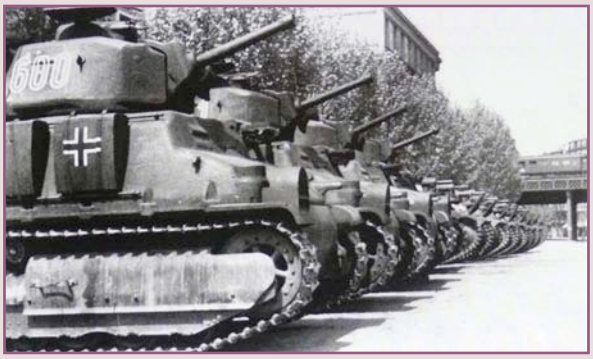
▶



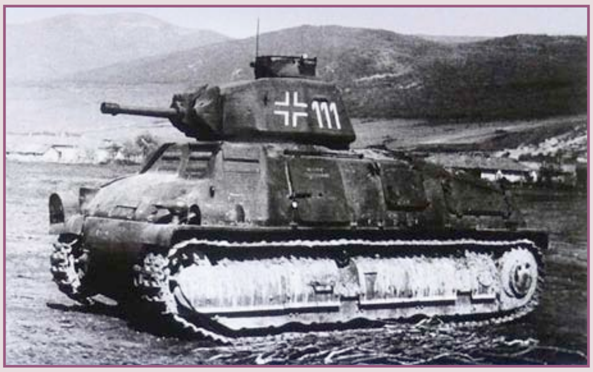
This Somua S35 appears to be much lighter than its actual colour of Dark Grey, often seen after much use in the field. The Somuas were issued to a number of German tank battalions and regiments ands used on several fronts from 1941-44.



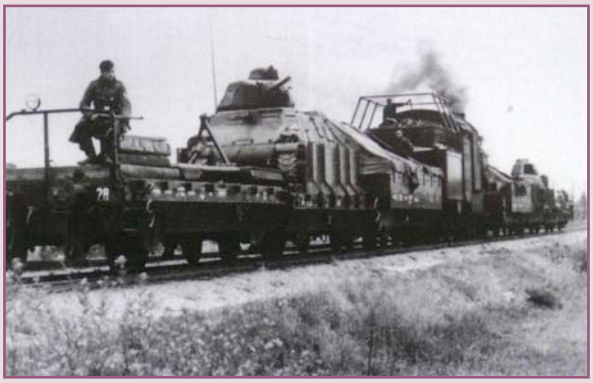
Most tanks in action or bivouac were parked under trees or in areas where they could be concealed from enemy air observation. This Somua S35 has retained the original French cupola, but most had the cupola top removed and replaced with a split hatch.



There were not enough Somuas to equip most German units completely and most of these were a combination of Somua S35s and Hotchkiss H39s, as seen here. Since they usually were operated without serious armour opposition, they proved useful for much of the war.



One of the prime areas where the Germans used French tanks was in the Balkans, to fight against Communist-supported partisans. The terrain was often mountainous and difficult, but the lack of effective enemy armour made these Somuas valuable.



One of the more important duties of occupation troops was protecting rail supply lines. This is an anti-partisan train with two Somua S35 tanks on flatcars. The tanks could be disembarked to attack partisans or follow them as they withdrew.

the tanks. In addition, compared to the Polish very light tanks encountered in 1939, many French tanks proved to be very tough foes on the battlefield. PzKpfw II crews found that their 2cm cannon could not penetrate the front armour of the Hotchkiss H39s, which were often used to ambush the lighter German tanks.

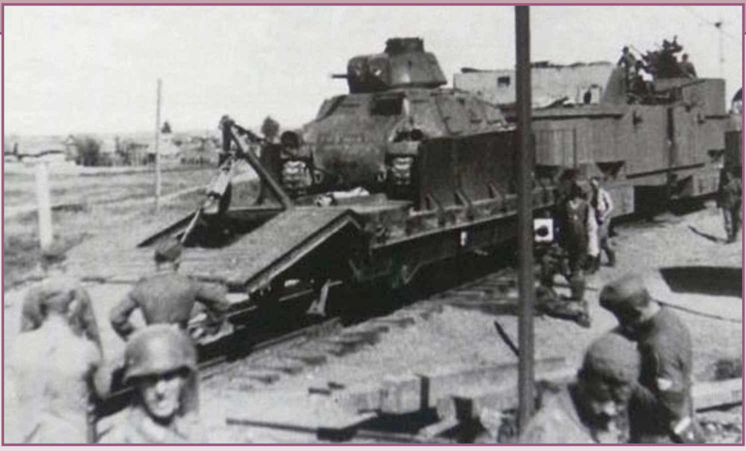
From the front, the Somua S35 could not be knocked out by any German tanks guns – the 3.7cm KwK in the PzKpfw III or the 7.5cm L/24 howitzer in the PzKpfw IV. At the same time, the S35's 47mm gun could penetrate both German tanks at normal combat ranges, providing a nasty surprise to a number of German crews. While the German crews enjoyed better training and tanks better suited for mobile warfare, the French tank units in the DLM and other army and cavalry units often distinguished themselves in action. Somua crews took full advantage of their tanks' relative immunity to enemy fire even in the retreat, often serving as the rear guard. German tank officers noted that many Somua S35s were hit multiple times by 3.7cm and 7.5cm fire, but were not knocked out.

The successes in the northern Belgian battles could not overcome the defeat in the plains of central France as the main German attack through the Ardennes according to von Manstein's Fall Gelb plan led to a breakout that pushed across the northern French countryside and eventually trapped the French armies in Belgium and the BEF against the coast, leading to the fighting around Dunkerque (Dunkirk), and the evacuation of well over 330,000 British and French troops from the beaches.

ARMISTICE AND WAR PRIZES

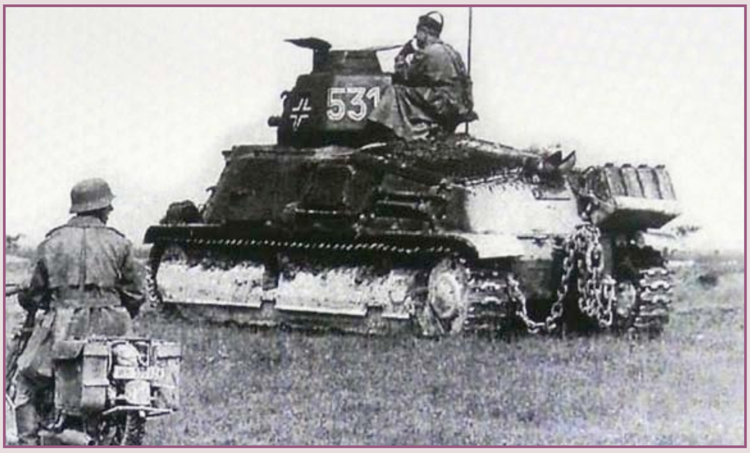
Fall Rot (Case Red) was the German invasion of France south of the drive to the coast, with the Germans reaching Paris by 14 June 1940 and the French government agreeing to an armistice on 22 June. The French army and all military forces were ordered to cease fighting, an order many soldiers resented as they had not had a chance to defend the country. Nonetheless, hundreds of thousands of French troops became prisoners of war.

The booty for the Germans was almost unbelievable. The British left behind on the beaches at Dunkirk enough materiel to equip 8 to 10 divisions, tens of thousands of vehicles, motorcycles, tanks, armoured cars, guns and the supplies and tons of spares to maintain them, the logistical tail of a modern mechanized army. They

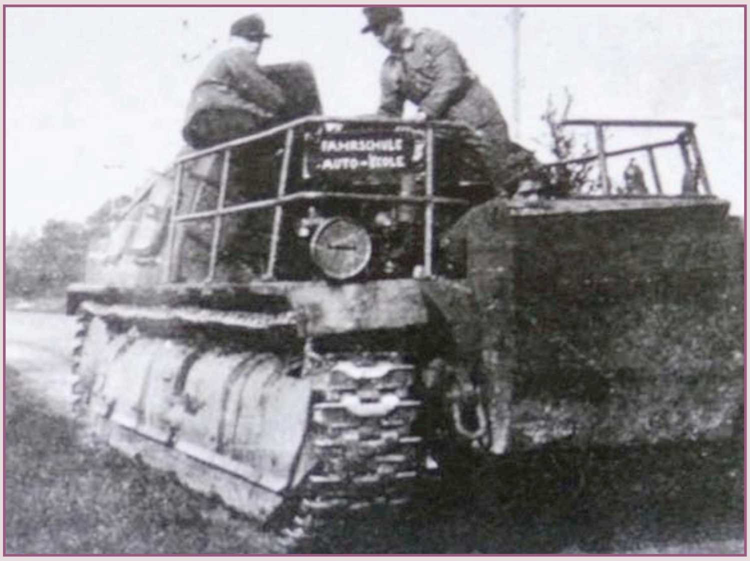


Here a Somua S35 on an anti-partisan train is preparing to disembark. A rod extension from the tank's hull operated the hinged ramp, allowing the tank to drive down to the tracks and leave the train. Behind the tank is an armoured flak car with a Flakvierling 38.

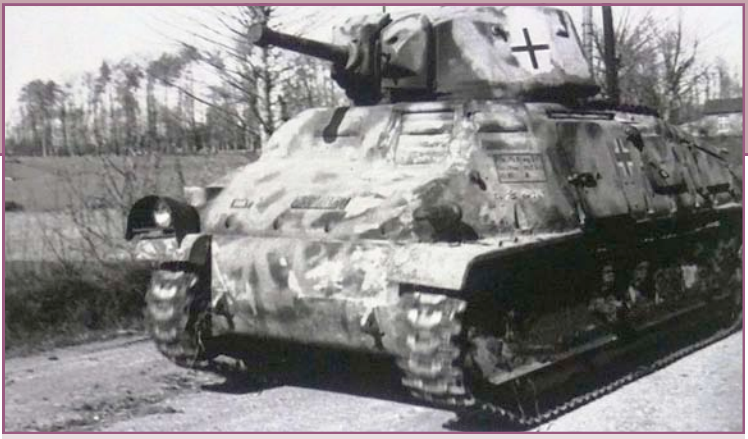
The Somua S35 served in several Germans units including the 7. Freiwilligen SS Gebirgs-Division "Prinz Eugen", active in the Balkans on anti-partisan duties. Until the appearance of Russian tanks in 1944 there was little effective anti-tank resistance.



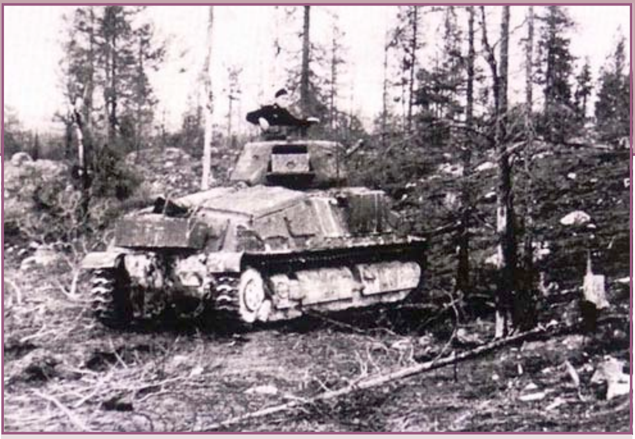
The Germans made some small changes to the Somuas in German service, such as the modified cupola and the added racks for jerricans and stowage, plus German radios and antennas, but in the main the tanks were suitable without a great deal of modification.



A number of Somua S35s were modified by removing part of the forward superstructure and adapting them for training tank drivers. This saved more capable German tanks for use by front-line combat units.



This German Somua S35 has a camouflage scheme of two colours brushed over the original Dark Grey. A number of German units used expedient camouflage colours when the official schemes didn't work well in their operating areas.



Formerly the 2nd Abteilung of Panzer-Regiment 201, Panzer-Abteilung 211 was sent to Finland in 1942, the only unit equipped with Somuas to fight on the Eastern Front. Much of it was not good tank country, as seen here – rough ground and heavily wooded.

lost little time in adapting this trove for their own uses. From the French forces, the Germans gained almost as much, plus civilian vehicles that could be impressed for German use.

SOMUA IN GERMAN SERVICE

French tanks and armoured vehicles were seized for use by German second-line forces and German police units in occupied France and French police in unoccupied Vichy France. The lighter tanks were considered good primarily for police duties, but the Somua S35, the best medium tank of 1940, was adapted for military use. Those used by German military units usually had the cupola modified by removing the top and installing a split hatch for the tank commander, allowing him to work opened up when desired. Most S35s were repainted dark grey and marked with often prominent Balkenkreuz markings.

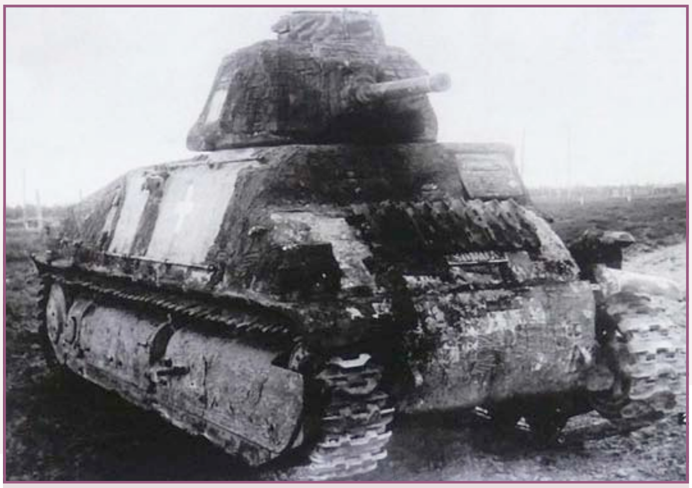
Other than new German radios, there were few other major changes, as the Somua S35 proved suitable for second-line armoured units. They served in anti-partisan units in the Balkans, among them 7. SS Freiwilligen Gebirgs-Division "Prinz Eugen", and 202. Panzer Abteilung. 211. Panzer Abteilung was formed from II/201. Panzer Regiment and sent to Finland, the only unit using Somua S35s to serve on the Eastern Front. The bitter winter cold and deep snow made using the S35s and Hotchkiss H39s more difficult, but the unit served well. The Russians captured a number of Somuas and Hotchkiss tanks and converted at least one S35 to mount a Russian ZiS-4 57mm tank gun.

BACK IN FRENCH HANDS

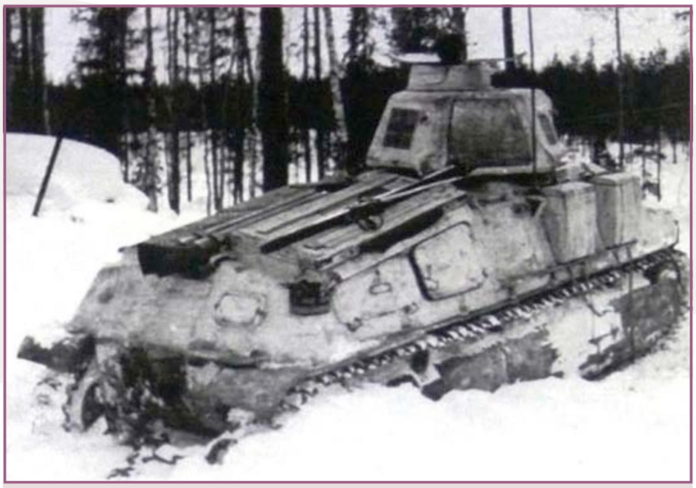
During the liberation of France in 1944, a number of German Somua S35s were re-captured by Allied troops and a group of these were formed into a new unit, the 13eme Regiment de Dragons, serving until the end of the war. After the war, the only French pre-war vehicle considered good enough to produce again was the excellent Panhard 178 (AMD 35) armoured car. The others were replaced with surplus Allied equipment.

CONCLUSION

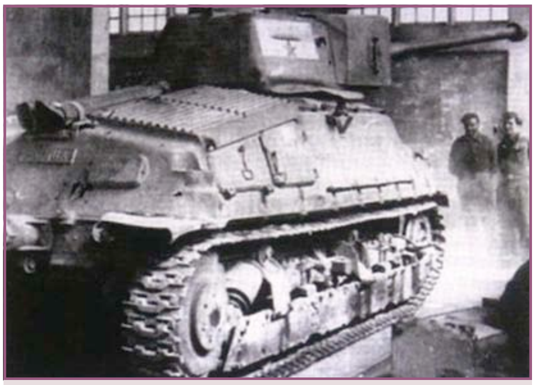
The Somua S35 has largely been forgotten compared to more widely used tanks, having had its major action in a campaign that led to defeat. It was, however, a technological marvel when it appeared with a number of advanced features like its all-cast construction, which in turn led to the design of the U.S. M4A1 medium tank's cast hull and turret. Its specifications were excellent for its time, and its performance in combat was actually quite good. The failure of France's 1940 campaign cannot be laid at the deficiencies of the tanks it sent into battle. The cavalry's "iron mounts" deserve a better reputation. ■



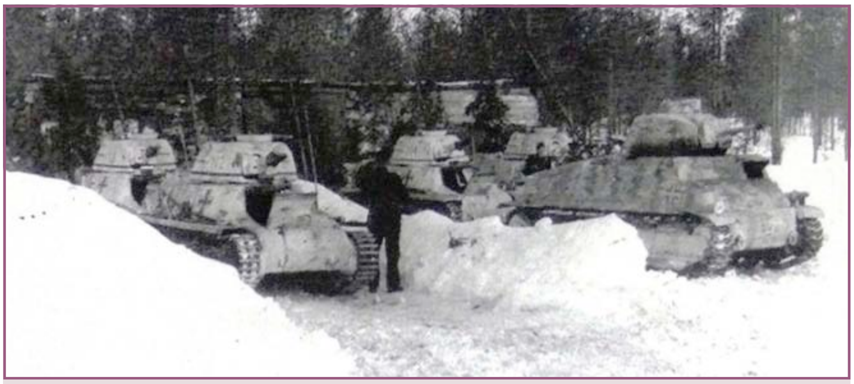
An unusual shot, this photo shows a Somua S35 captured by Russian troops on the Karelian peninsula. This example has had a field application of zimmerit, applied in some areas with a waffle pattern to the cement. The smooth area was for the side stowage bins.



Operations by Panzer-Abteilung 211 were made more difficult in winter, with the cold and the deep snow both taking their toll of the Somua S35s and Hotchkiss H39s used by the unit. The tanks all received a solid white winter scheme for the long winters.



The Russians captured a number of Somua and Hotchkiss tanks during the fighting in Finland, and this S35 has been fitted experimentally with a Russian 57mm ZiS-4 tank gun. The front of the turret was cut away to accommodate installing the new weapon.

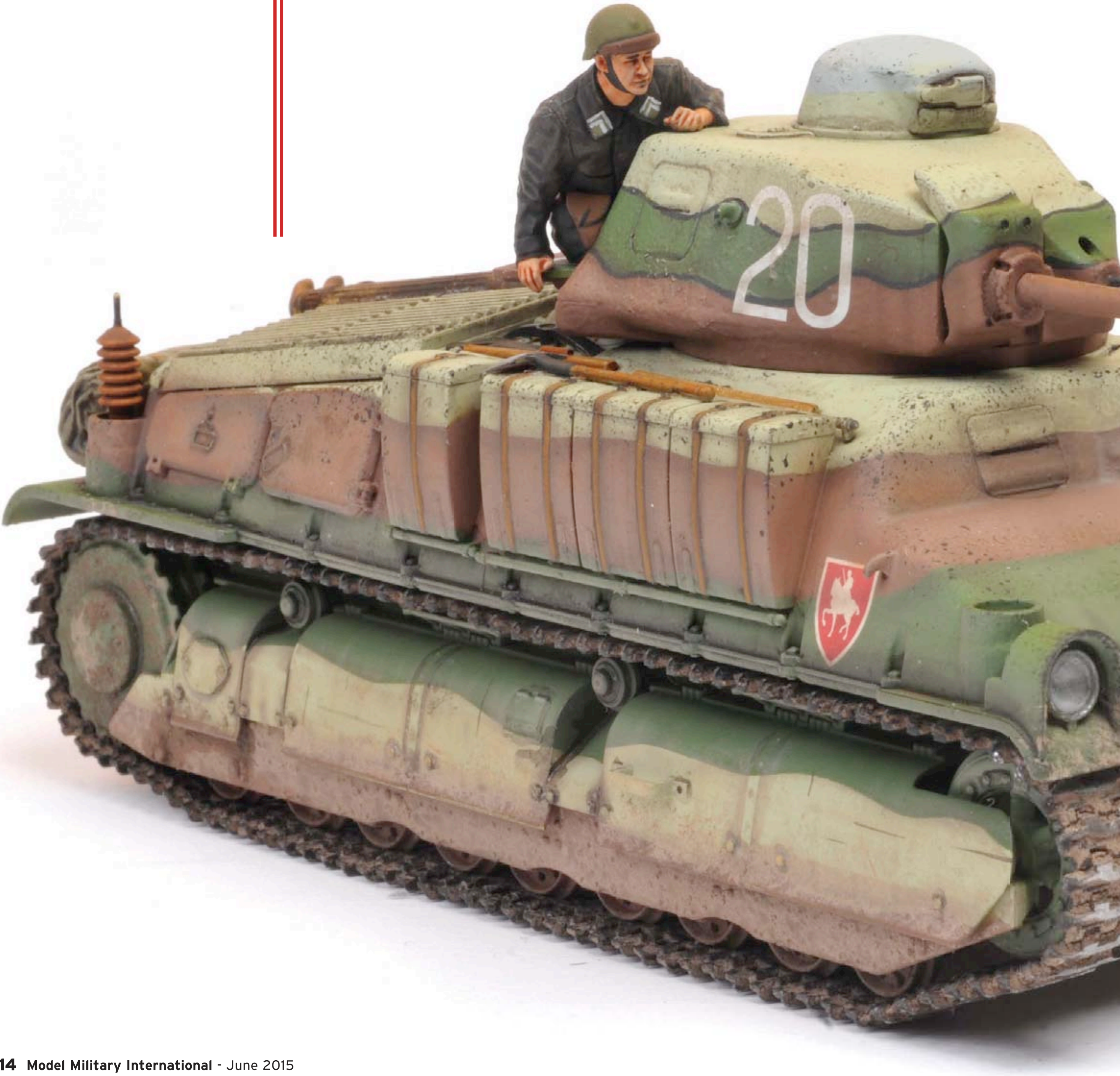


The Somua S35 at the right is perhaps an older vehicle, having a worn camouflage scheme. Most of the German units operating French tanks had both the Somua S35 and the Hotchkiss H39. These tanks have small red turret numbers.

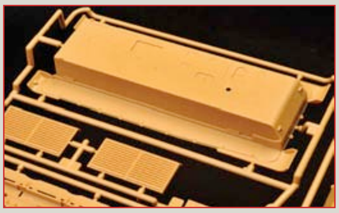
SOMUA
S35
TAMIYA

FRENCH MEDIUM

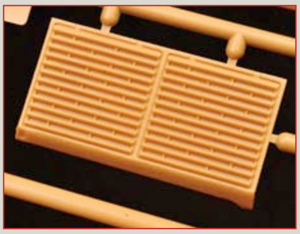
The Editor builds Tamiya's brand new 1:35 scale Somua S35 French Medium Tank.

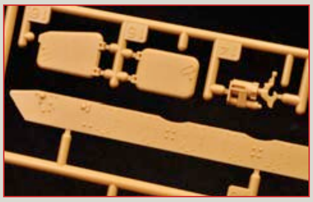


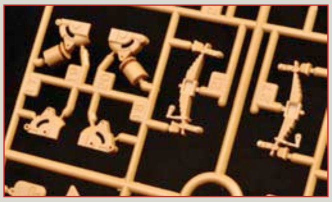
The one-piece upper hull features restrained but convincing cast texture.

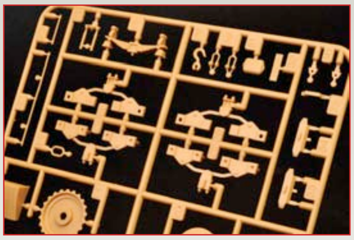

The kit has a one-piece lower hull too.

The lower hull sides are simple in terms of assembly but well detailed.

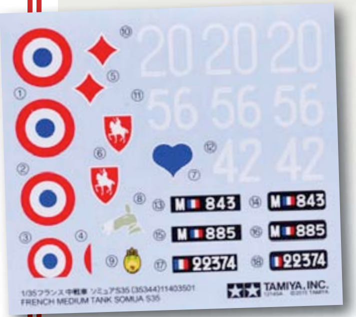

The engine deck vents are moulded solid, but look good after painting and weathering.


The impressive cast texture extends to the hatches too.


Suspension components.


Tamiya has designed the potentially complex running gear so that it is a breeze to build.

Clear parts for the headlight, tail lights and visor detail inside the driver's hatch.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22374
TAMIYA, INC.
FRENCH MEDIUM TANK SOMUA S35

Markings are offered for three interesting schemes.

A length of chain and eight polythene caps are included.

The Somua S35 was a French Cavalry tank of the Second World War.

Built from 1936 until 1940 to equip the armoured divisions of the Cavalry, it was for its time a relatively agile medium-weight tank, superior in armour and armament to both its French and foreign competitors, such as the contemporary versions of the German Panzerkampfwagen III.

It was constructed from well-sloped, mainly cast, armour sections, that made it expensive to produce and time-consuming to maintain.

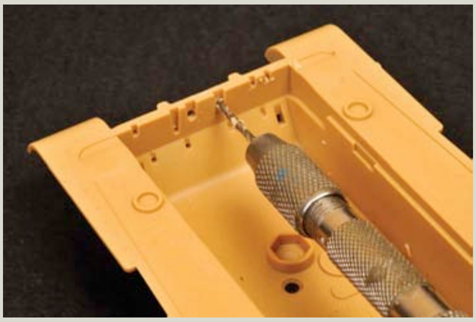
During the German invasion of May 1940, the Somua S35 proved itself to be a tactically effective type, but this was negated by the French command's strategic mistakes in deploying the Cavalry armoured divisions.

After the defeat of France in June 1940, limiting production to a number of 430, captured Somua S35s were used by the Axis powers, some of them on the Eastern Front.*

This is not the first 1:35 scale injection moulded kit of a Somua S35. Heller released their Somua S35 way back in the 1970s. This was a typical kit for its day, basic in detail and fitted with stiff silver vinyl tracks.

Graham Tetley's Airedale Castings produced a highly detailed resin 1:35 scale kit of the Somua S35 early in this century, with optional parts for French and German versions. This kit has recently been re-released by Inside the Armour and enhanced with photo-etched details and stencils for markings.

Inside and outside views of the hull sides.


Don't forget to drill out the holes from the inside of the lower and upper hull pieces!

IN THE BOX

Tamiya's 1:35 scale Somua S35 is a brand-new kit. It comprises 190 parts in tan coloured plastic, plastic; another 200+ individual tracks links in grey, five parts in clear, a length of chain and eight polythene caps.

Surface detail is excellent. The cast texture is particularly well done - subtle yet still noticeable from most angles.

The running gear with its four bogies and four wheels each could have been complicated, but Tamiya has tackled the breakdown of this area in their typical style - straightforward parts breakdown but with a high level of detail.

It is interesting to see how the layers of covers were applied over the running gear of this vehicle.

The tracks are similar to those on the Char B and the more recent Mark IV tanks. They are ready to use straight from the box – no sprue attachments or flash on any of my sample parts. There is a ghost of an attachment point of the centre of the track pad that might need to be cleaned up, but I simply tipped them from their bags and started clipping them into place. The links click together positively and quickly. Slip one pin into one hole on the next link, then click the second pin into place.

The upper and lower hulls are both single castings, making basic assembly a fast and painless process.

Hull hatches are supplied as separate parts but there is no internal detail whatsoever. I do like the detail on the inside of the driver's vision flap though.

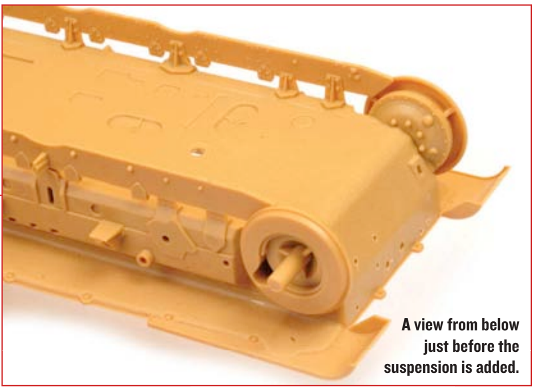
Clear parts are supplied for the headlight lens and the taillights.

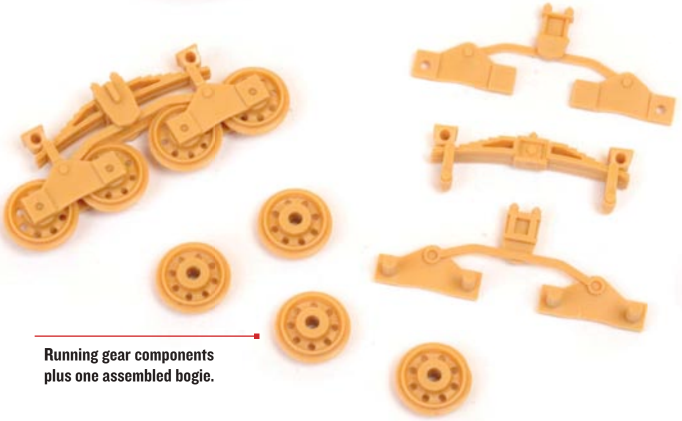
A length of chain is provided to drape from the rear towing eyes.

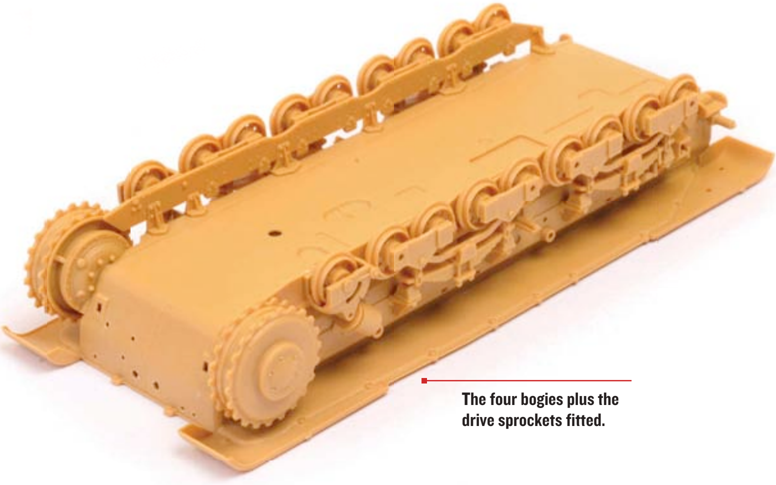
Markings are offered for three machines with varied and typically colourful camouflage schemes.

The Tamiya decals look good on the sheet with perfect registration and colour.

Ready for the running gear.


A view from below just before the suspension is added.


Running gear components plus one assembled bogie.


The four bogies plus the drive sprockets fitted.

* History courtesy of Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SOMUA_S35

CONSTRUCTION, TAMIYA STYLE

Really, what can I say? Construction was very straightforward, taking place over little more than a day in a few enjoyable building sessions.

Another typical Tamiya dream build.

I chose to build the model straight from the box but there are a few details you could add if you wanted to. In particular, the small upper turret could do with lifting hooks and some bolt head detail. The straps for the side stowage boxes are moulded in place, and might look better if they were replaced with separate scratch-built straps and buckles.

Apart from that, everything is "très bon"!

I really appreciated the simplicity of the running gear and the covers. This does not imply an absence of detail, however.

Don't forget to drill out the holes in the lower hull in Step 2, and the upper hull in Step 13.

The cast surface texture looks great but I was left with a few small gaps and seams on the turrrets due to my overenthusiastic removal of sprue attachments. I killed two birds by filling these gaps and enhancing the cast texture using globs of Tamiya Surfacer scraped from inside the lid.

I also hollowed out the muzzle of the turret machine gun.

ARMOUR DECO

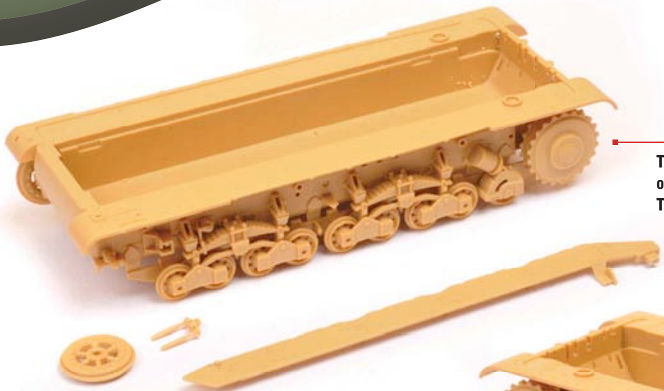
I'm hard pressed to think of any nation that had wilder colours and camouflage patterns on their tanks during WWII than France. The Somua S35 sported a wide range of schemes apparently inspired less by the need for concealment than by Art Deco.

Tamiya offers three attractive schemes on their decal sheet. I could not resist the wavy horizontal pattern with light blue, large swathes of Sky Green plus Olive Green and Red Brown.

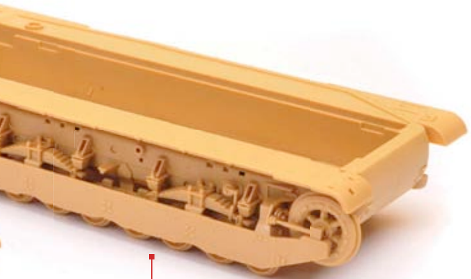
I decided to use Mr Color lacquer paints for the first three colours - 117 RLM 76 Light Blue, 122 RLM 82 Light Green and Sky (from three-colour RAF set).

I chose to skip the priming stage as the lacquer colours would be suitably durable. Also, being pale in shade, the Light Blue and Sky shades would still highlight any lingering imperfections.

The turret was sprayed Light Blue, and the hull received an overall coat of Sky. ▶

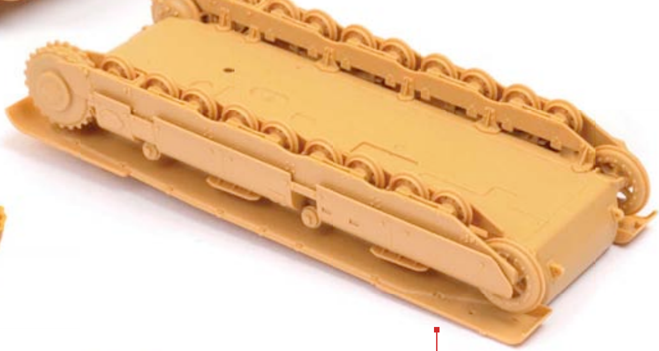


The idler wheel has to be trapped between the forks of the track tensioner before fitting it to the axle. This is really the only tricky part of the entire build.

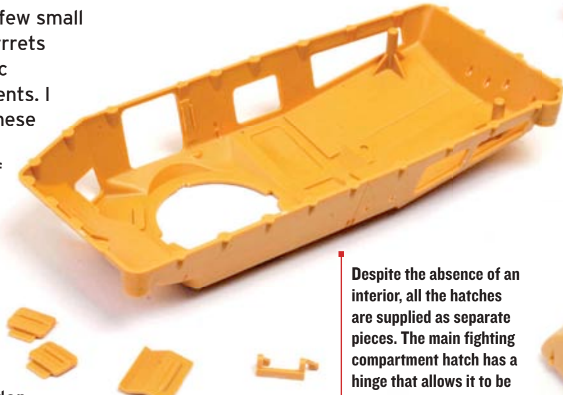


The lower running gear cover in place.

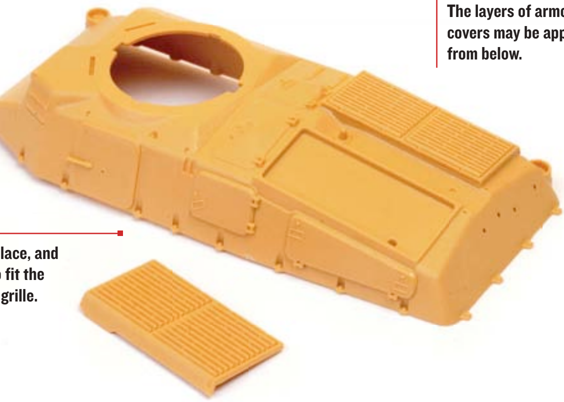
The top cover hides most of that lovely detail!



The layers of armoured covers may be appreciated from below.

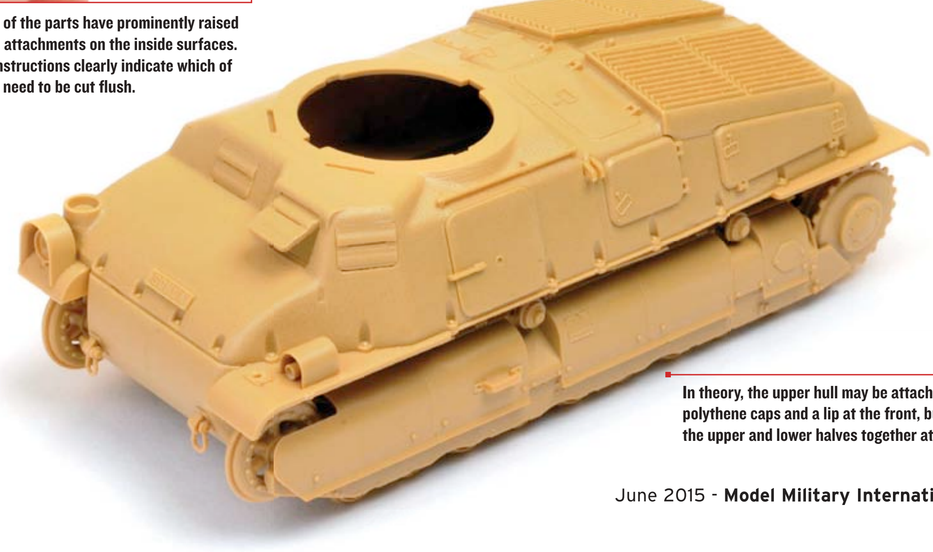


Despite the absence of an interior, all the hatches are supplied as separate pieces. The main fighting compartment hatch has a hinge that allows it to be posed open.

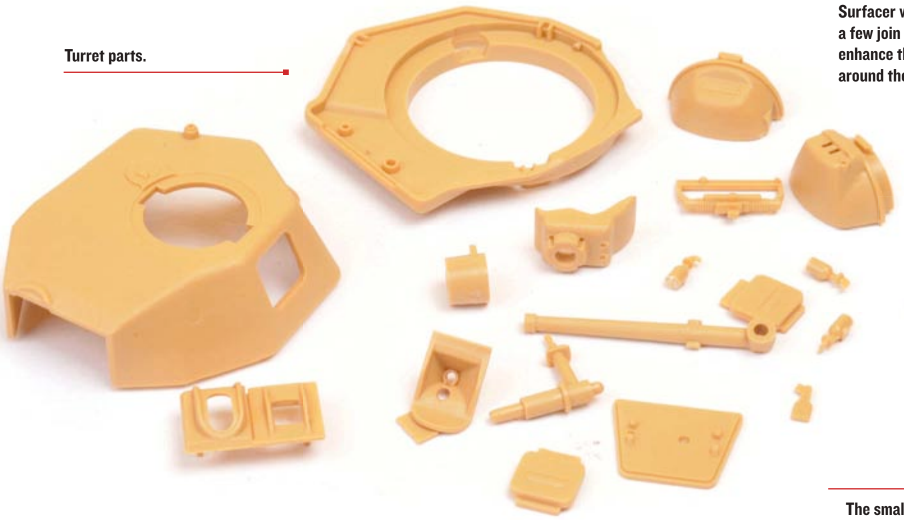


Hatches in place, and just about to fit the engine deck grille.

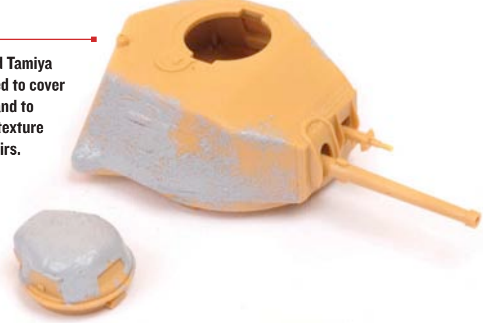
Some of the parts have prominently raised sprue attachments on the inside surfaces. The instructions clearly indicate which of these need to be cut flush.



In theory, the upper hull may be attached using polythene caps and a lip at the front, but I glued the upper and lower halves together at this stage.



Turret parts.



Globs of thickened Tamiya Surfacer were used to cover a few join seams and to enhance the cast texture around these repairs.

The small top turret may be left unglued to rotate.

THAT'S A WRAP!

So, how to tackle this four-colour camouflage pattern? With similar schemes in the past I have sometimes brush-painted the outline then coloured between the lines with an airbrush.

I have also used Blu-Tack as a masking medium, or cut out camouflage patterns enlarged from kit instructions as a guide.

This time though, I decided to simply cut wavy lines from lengths of Tamiya masking tape, and apply these in layers on the turret and the hull. The most important element of this technique is getting the sequence of tape application and painting in the right order.

First, I masked off the top of the small Commander's turret (currently Light Blue), then sprayed the rest of the turret Sky.

Next, the top of the hull and the middle-length of the running gear covers were masked, followed by a coat of Mr Color 122 RLM 82 Light Green.

Leaving the tape in place, the next layer was applied to the middle of the turret sides and the entire lower-mid hull. The model looked more wrapped than masked at this stage, but the plan worked out well in the end. Removing the layers of tape revealed a stark four-colour camouflage pattern with all the colours in the right place.

However, I wasn't quite finished with the masking tape yet. The characteristic straps for the side stowage bins are moulded in place, so these were masked around and sprayed a dark black-brown acrylic paint mix.

The last touch was to paint narrow black lines between the camouflage colours on the turret. I used a 5-0 paint brush and Vallejo Panzer Aces 333 Germ. Tkcr. (Black), wearing an Optivisor and holding my breath during this delicate operation!

Detail parts have been added to the hull and turret here. The model has been built straight from the box.

MARKINGS AND WEATHERING

Considering the stark colours and hard-edged camouflage, the first order of weathering was blending and fading. For this, I simply sprayed Tamiya XF-57 Buff diluted with 90% thinners over the entire model. This effectively toned down the bright shades.

Next, the turret and hull front was sprayed with several coats of Future Floor Polish to provide a glossy base for the decals

Markings were straight from the Tamiya decal sheet.

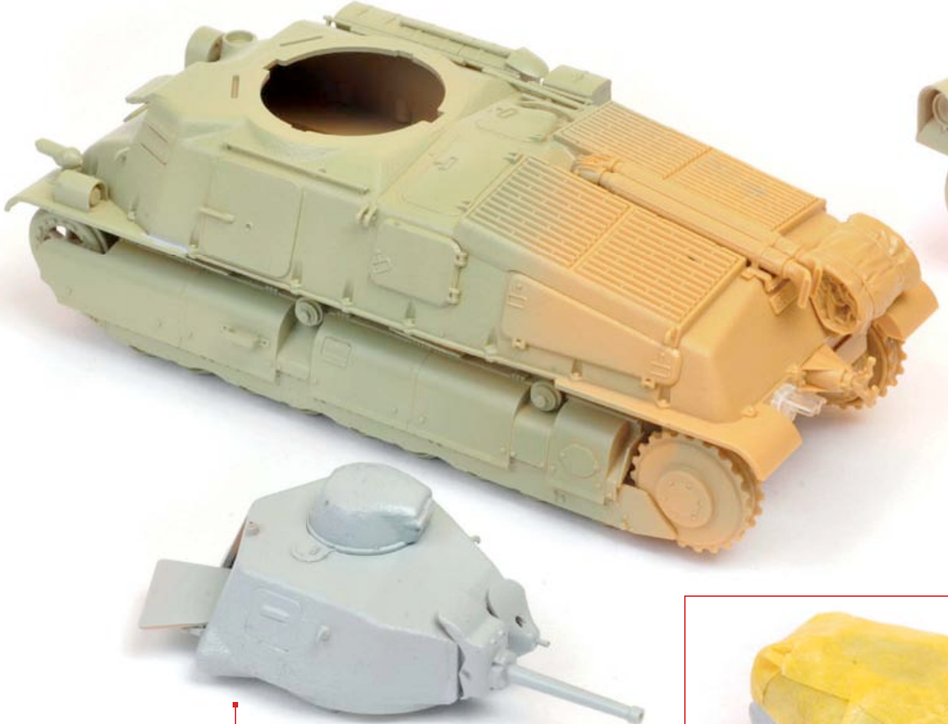
Once the markings were in place but the model was still glossy, structural detail and panel lines were highlighted with Deep Shadow Wash from the new Wilder range of weathering products. The heavy wash was left to dry for around ten minutes then the excess was removed with a flat brush lightly dampened with mineral turpentine.

The model was sprayed with an overall coat of Alclad II Clear Flat.

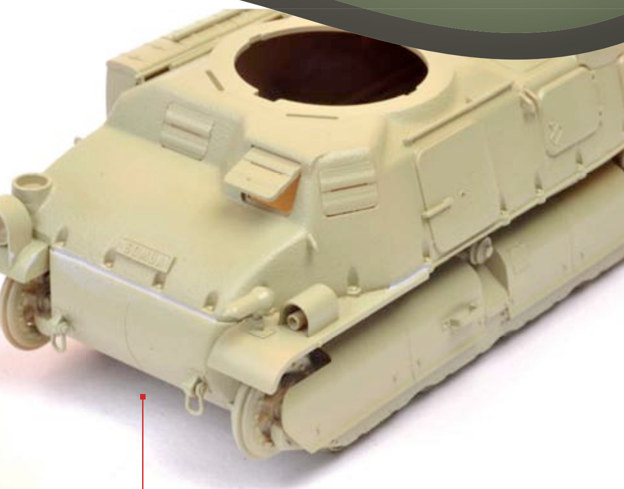
I quite liked the clean look of the camouflaged tank at this stage so I decided not to obscure the pattern and colours with heavy weathering. Unlike the Char B, some of these Somua S35 tanks seemed to stay fairly free from filth even in action.

I therefore skipped the pigment stage and simply mixed Maru Easy Mud Item No. 21105 – European Earth with water until it was a muddy slurry, then stippled it to the lower hull sides, front and rear with a stiff brush.

I mixed up a heavily thinned black-brown shade – about 90% thinners – and sprayed fine lines



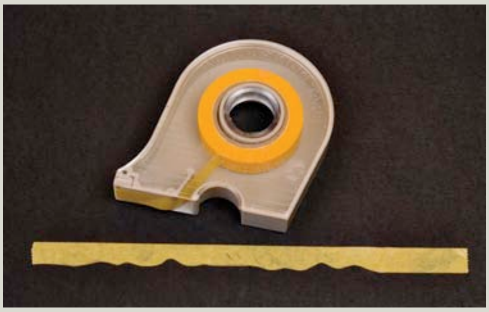
A base coat was applied using Gunze Mr Color lacquer paints - 117 RLM 76 Light Blue for the turret and Sky (from three-colour RAF set) for the hull.



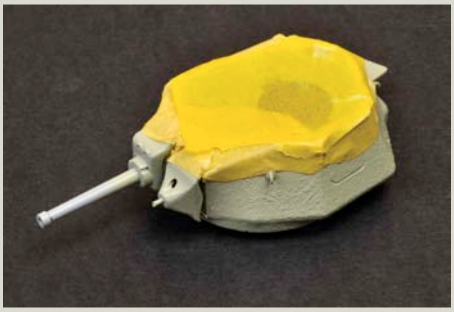
The tough lacquer paint precludes the need for primer, and the pale colour shows imperfections nicely. A few seams have been filled here before painting continues.

The first layer of Tamiya tape is applied to the tiny top turret.

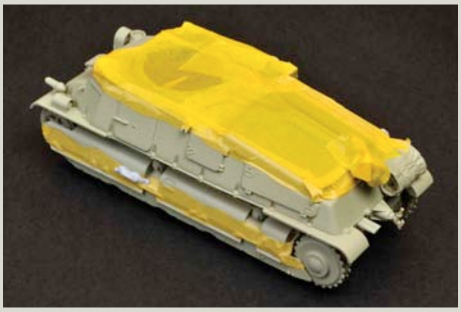
Two-tones on a rough cast surface.



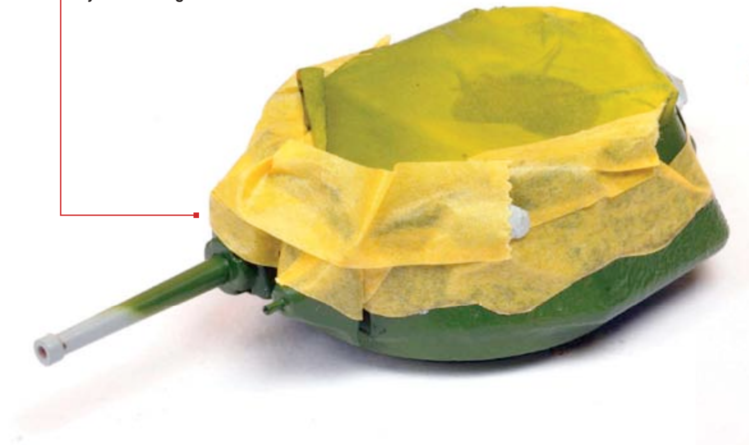
The masks were created by simply cutting wavy lines on lengths of Tamiya tape.



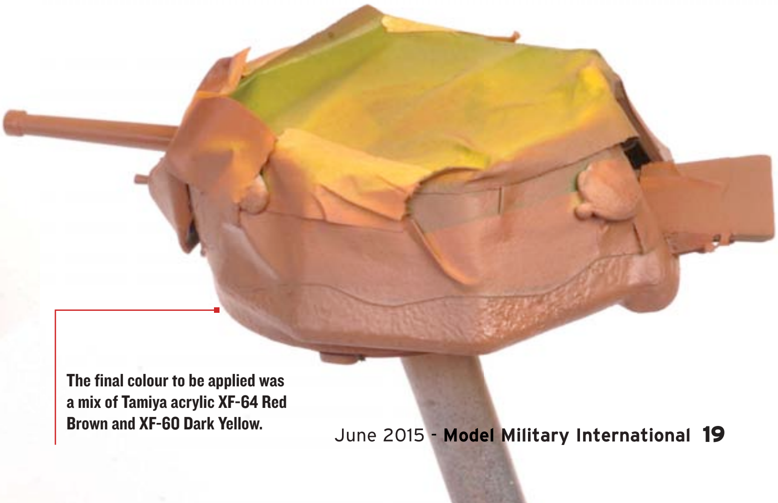
The first masking layer on the main turret. A larger piece of tape has been added to the top of the turret to complete this mask.



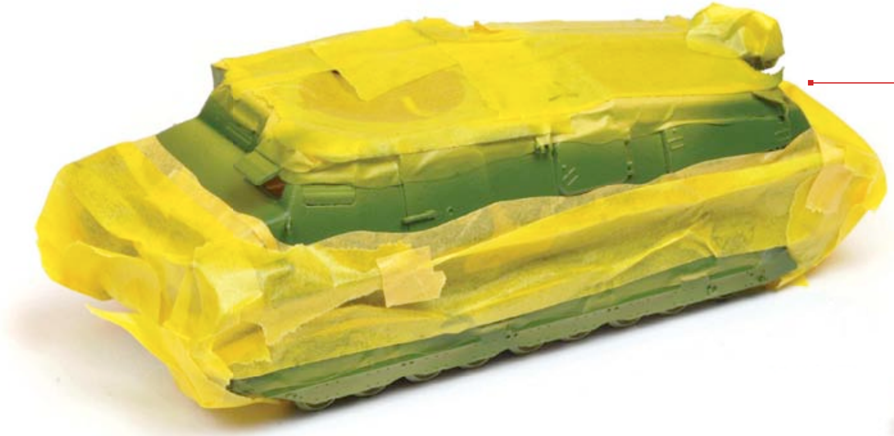
Layer one of masking on the hull.



Here, the green shade has been applied to the turret – Mr Color 122 RLM 82 Light Green – and the second layer of masking has been added.

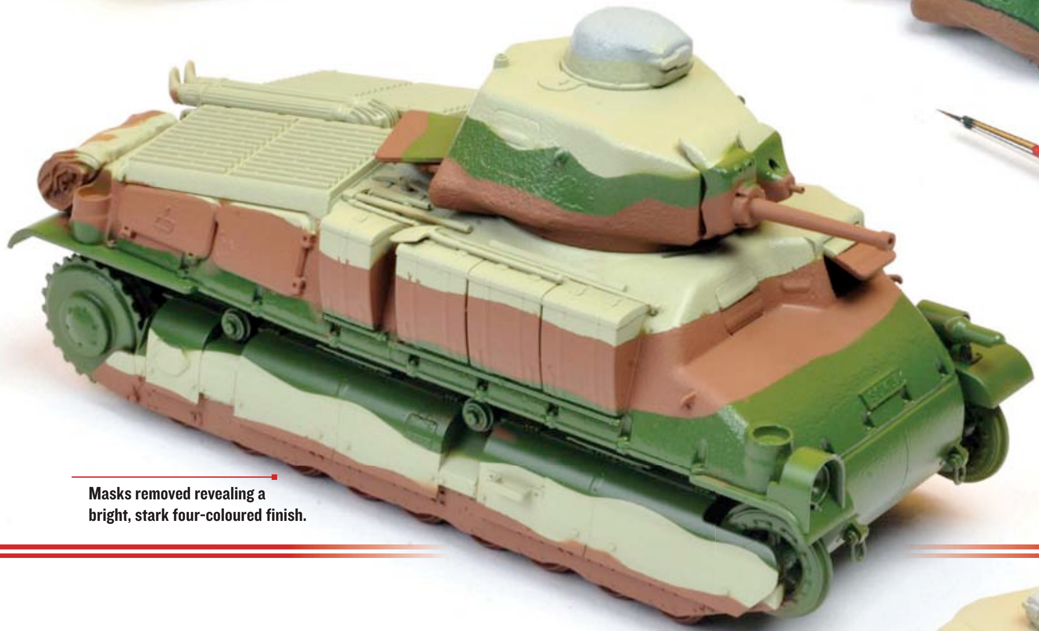


The final colour to be applied was a mix of Tamiya acrylic XF-64 Red Brown and XF-60 Dark Yellow.

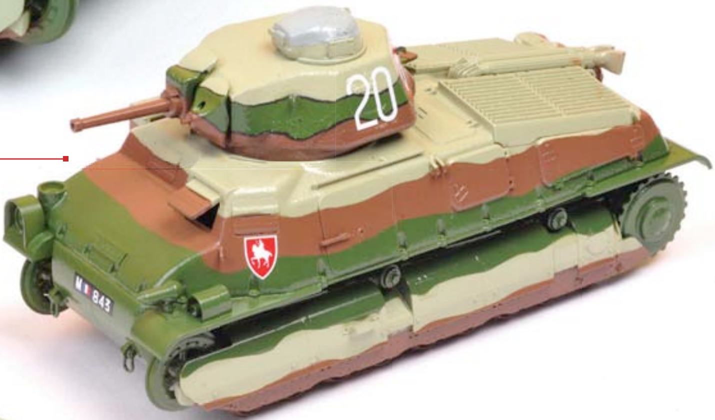


The hull, masks applied and awaiting its coat of lightened Red Brown.

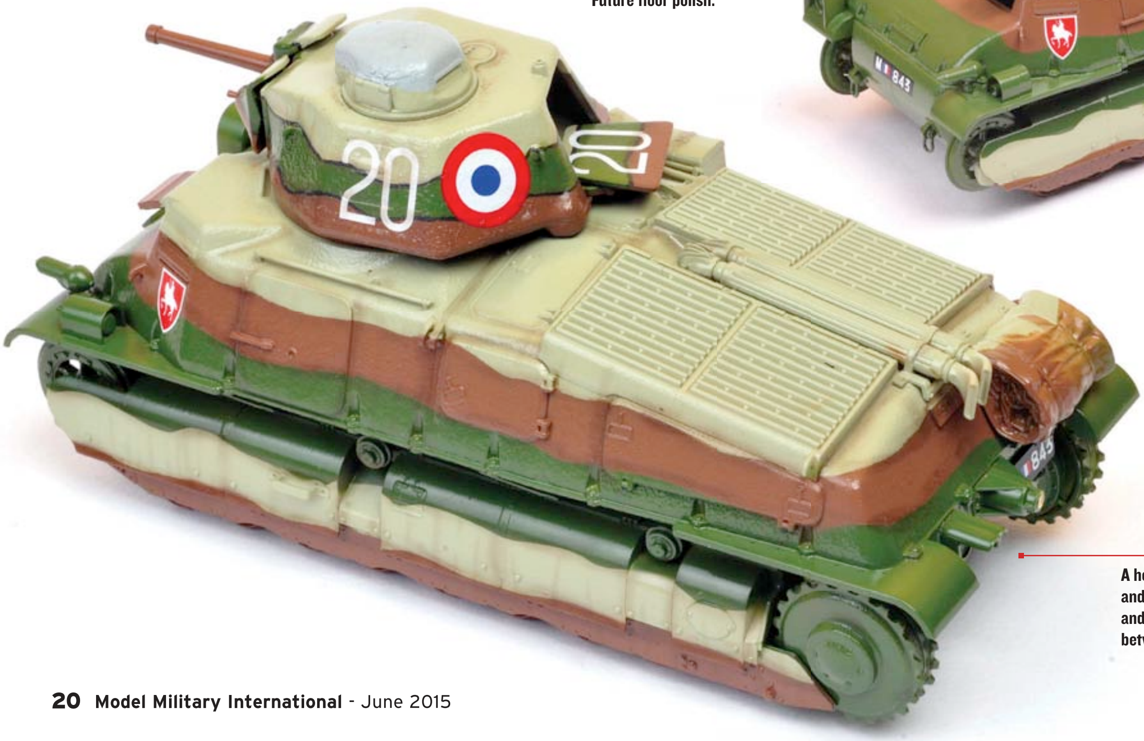
Fine lines were carefully painted with a 5/0 brush using Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylic 333 Germ. Tkcr. (Black).



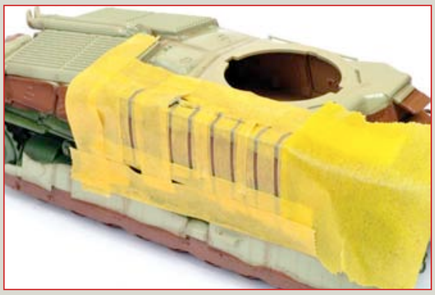
Masks removed revealing a bright, stark four-coloured finish.



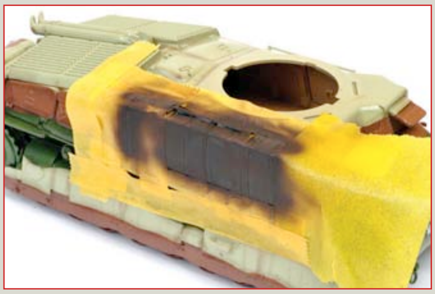
The kit decals were applied over two glossy coats of Future floor polish.



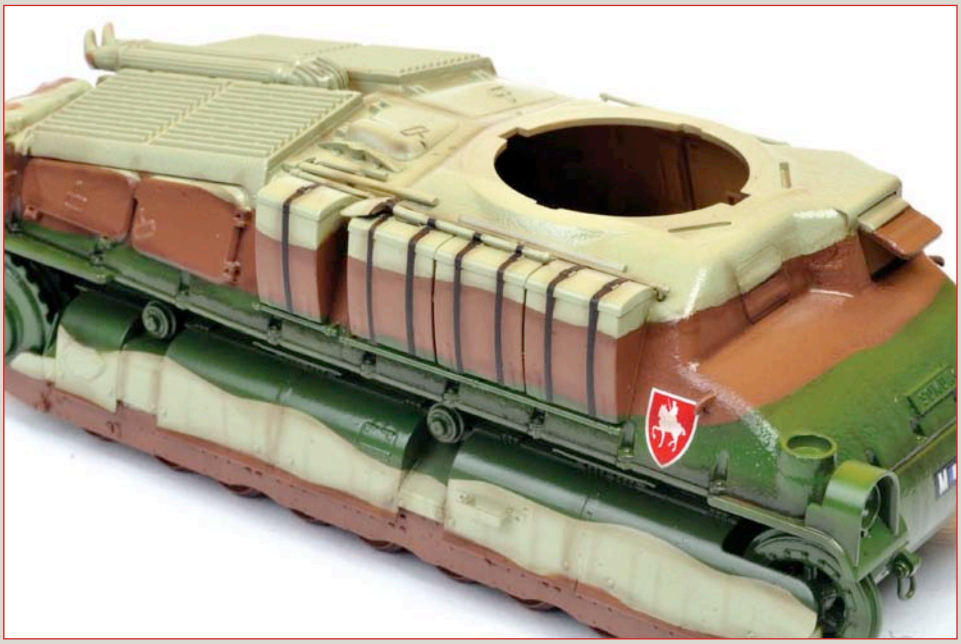
A heavily thinned black-brown shade was mixed and sprayed in fine lines around structural details and along the hull camouflage demarcation between the colours.



The areas surrounding the moulded-on stowage bin straps were carefully masked withy Tamiya tape.



The area was then sprayed with a black-brown mix.



The result? Fast and straight straps!

around structural details and along the hull camouflage demarcation between the colours.

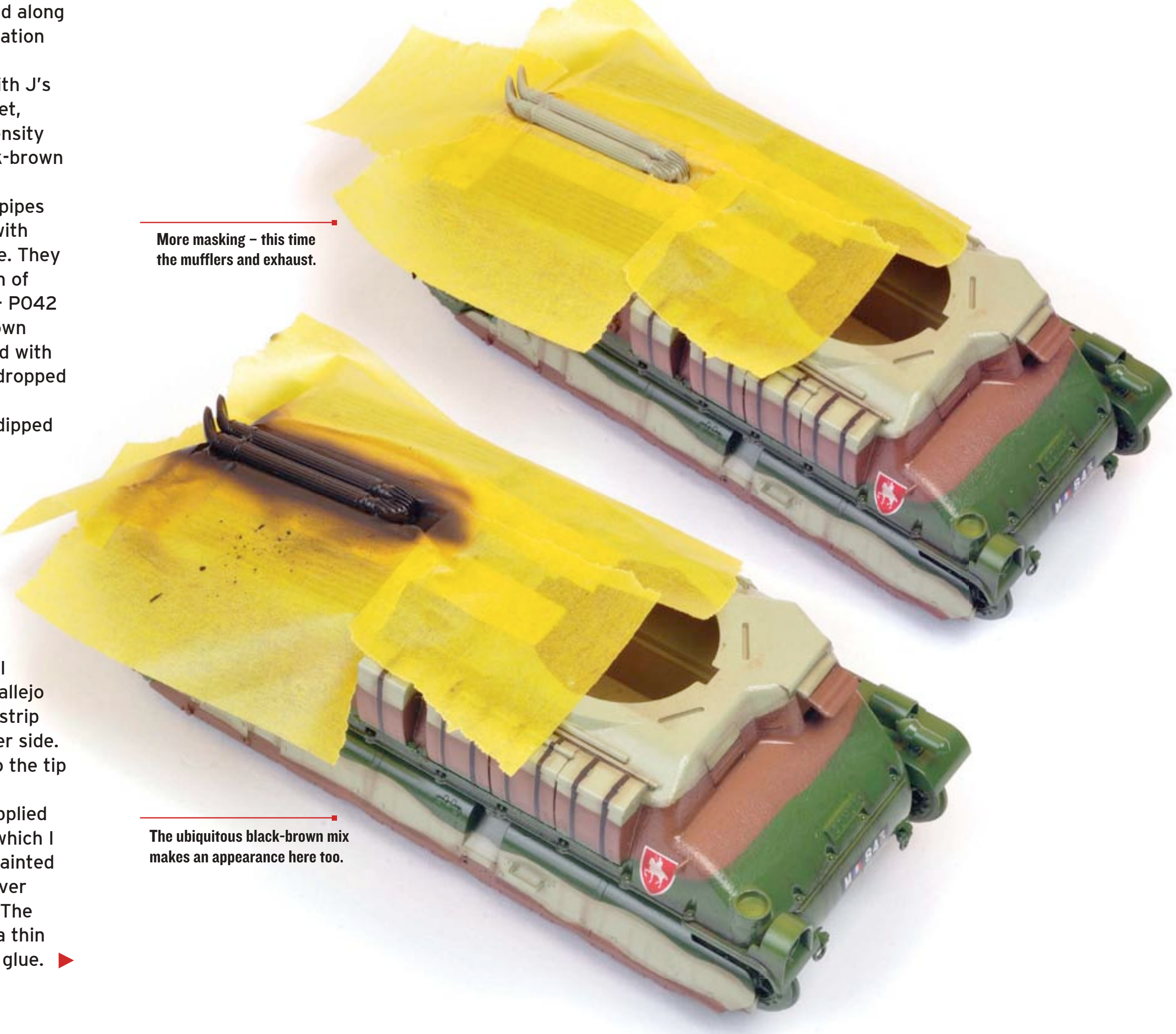
Chipping was achieved with J's Work Chipping Effect Pen Set, using one of the medium-density sponges loaded with a black-brown acrylic mix.

The muffler and exhaust pipes were masked and sprayed with the same black-brown shade. They then received a combination of Mig Productions' pigments - P042 Ochre Rust, P414 Track Brown and P416 Fresh Rust- sealed with Wilder's FX01 Fixer, gently dropped from a short distance.

The chunky chains were dipped in "Black Magic" blackening solution before being fitted to the loop and hooks on the rear hull.

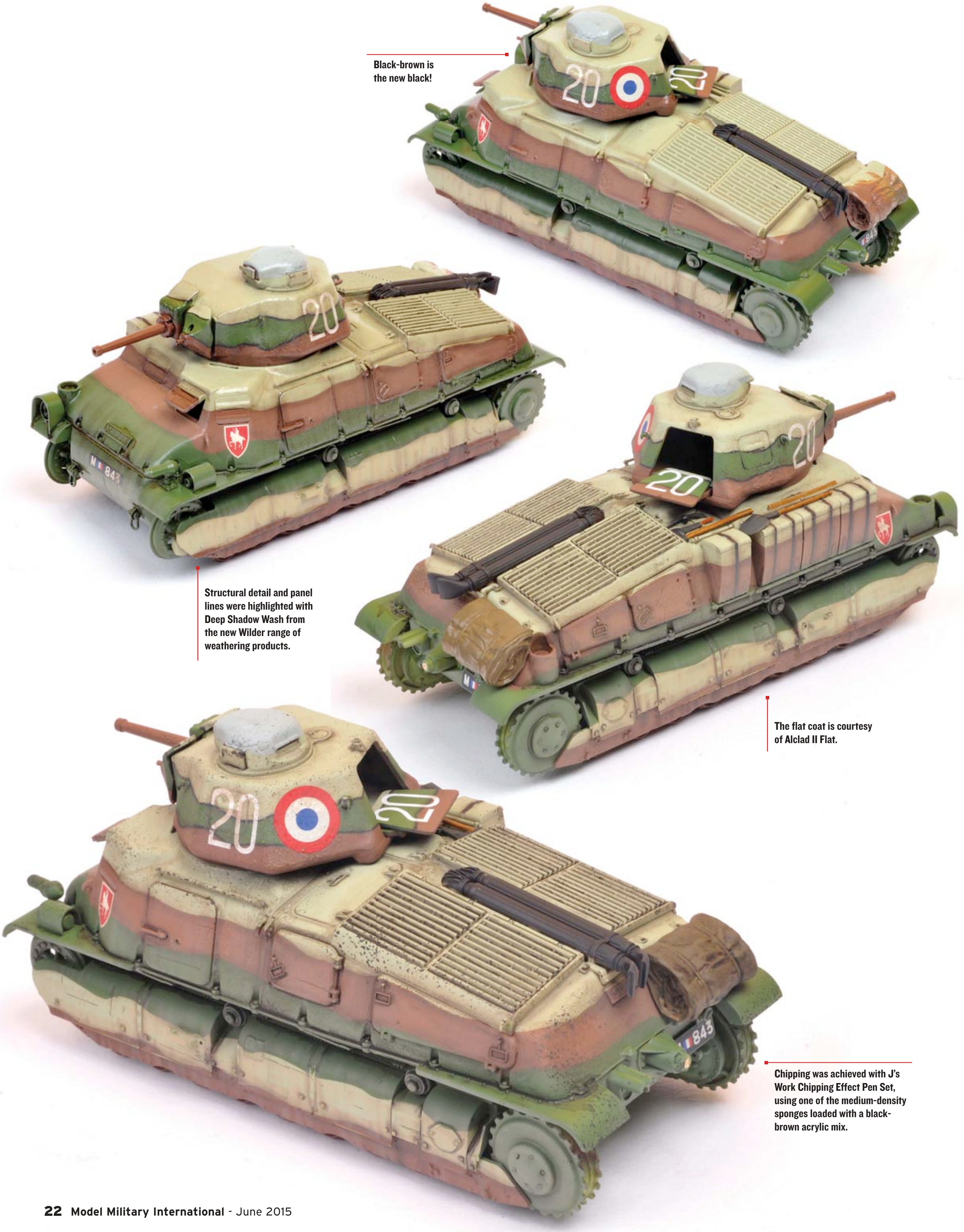
Tools were picked out with a fine brush using Vallejo acrylic paints. I also decided that the dark straps did not really stand out enough, so I carefully painted these in Vallejo Leather Belt, leaving a fine strip of the darker shade on either side. The buckles were treated to the tip of a 2B pencil.

The small headlight is supplied with a separate clear lens, which I fitted after the inside was painted Mr Metal Colour Chrome Silver applied with a micro-brush. The lens was held in place with a thin bead of Gator's Grip acrylic glue.



More masking – this time the mufflers and exhaust.

The ubiquitous black-brown mix makes an appearance here too.



Black-brown is the new black!

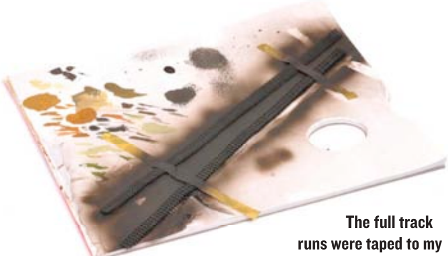
Structural detail and panel lines were highlighted with Deep Shadow Wash from the new Wilder range of weathering products.

The flat coat is courtesy of Alclad II Flat.

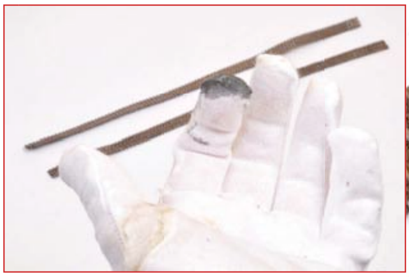
Chipping was achieved with J's Work Chipping Effect Pen Set, using one of the medium-density sponges loaded with a black-brown acrylic mix.

The track links are supplied ready-to-assemble in a plastic bag – no sprues.

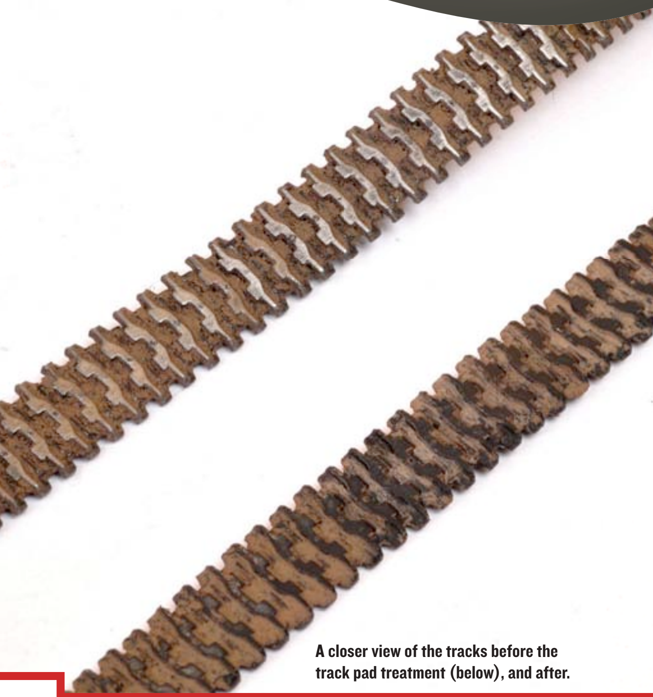
Some of the links suffered from a small mark in the middle of the track pad. After much deliberation, I ignored these and pressed on – literally! The links were simply clicked together.



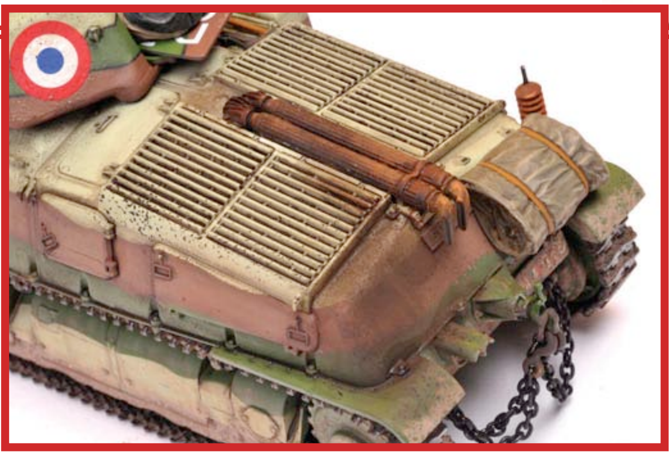
The full track runs were taped to my artist's paper palette and sprayed with, you guessed it, the black-brown mix.



A slurry of Maru Easy Mud was brushed onto the tracks. When dry, I rubbed Mr Metal Colour Stainless onto the tops of the track pads using a fingertip in a cotton glove.



A closer view of the tracks before the track pad treatment (below), and after.



A dirty exhaust stain was sprayed onto the rear hull.

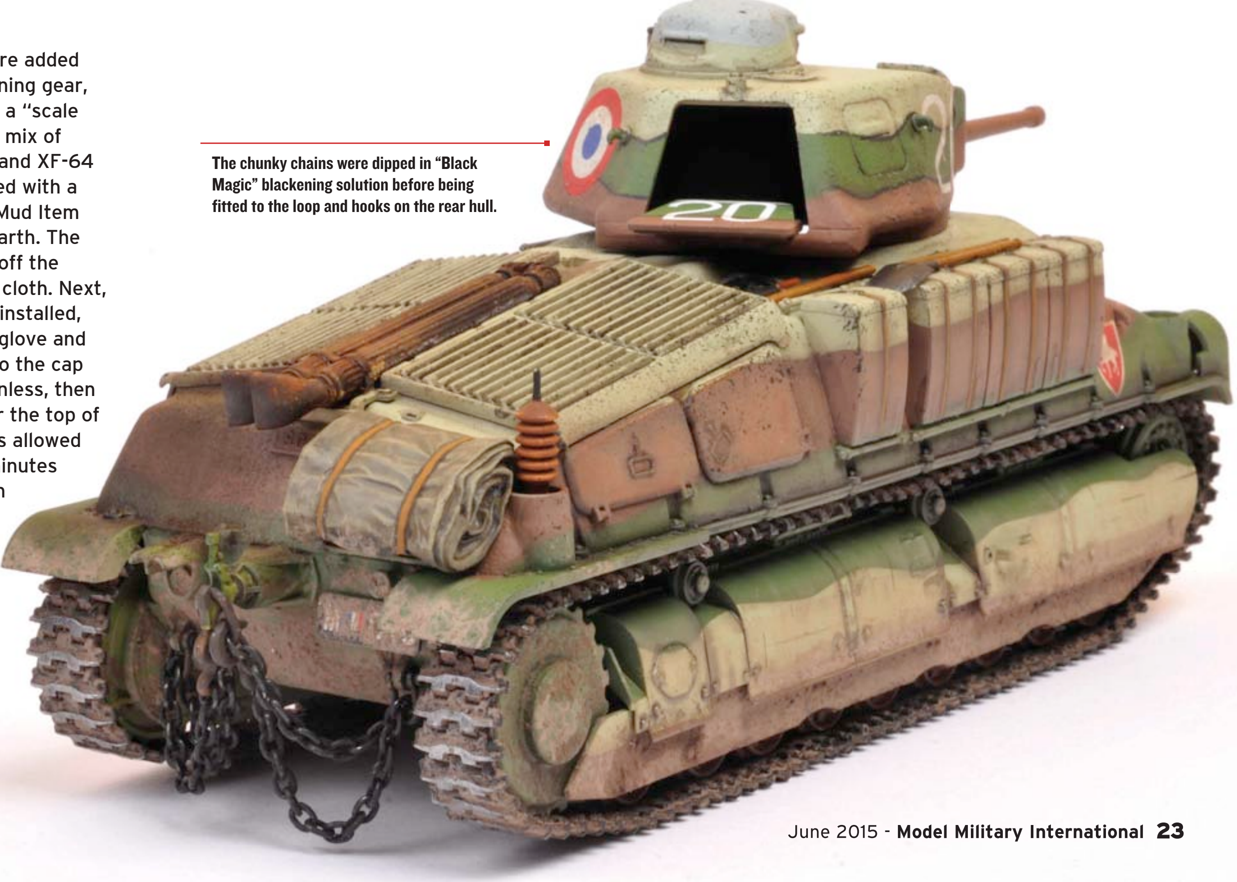
MAKING TRACKS

I did not have a single problem when assembling each run of 104 links. The plastic is flexible enough to stretch while the pins are being fitted, and solid enough to hold the links together. The whole length is really quite robust.

I do hope Tamiya keeps using this excellent style of track on their forthcoming releases.

Before the tracks were added permanently to the running gear, they were sprayed with a "scale black" shade - a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown, then brushed with a mix of water and Easy Mud Item No. 21105 - European Earth. The excess mud was wiped off the track pads with a clean cloth. Next, before the tracks were installed, I put on a white cotton glove and dipped one fingertip into the cap of Mr Metal Colour Stainless, then wiped the fingertip over the top of the track pads. This was allowed to dry for a couple of minutes then buffed with a clean gloved fingertip. I found this to be a fast and effective way to represent heavy wear on the track pads, and I will certainly use this technique again in future. ▶

> "Really, what can I say? Construction was very straightforward, taking place over little more than a day in a few enjoyable building sessions…"



The chunky chains were dipped in "Black Magic" blackening solution before being fitted to the loop and hooks on the rear hull.

COMMANDER FIGURE

I liked the kit-supplied Commander, so I decided to use him without modification.

The head was sprayed with Tamiya White Primer and the body with Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the spray can. The head then received a sprayed coat of Tamiya XF-15 Flat Flesh. Facial features were given a wash with heavily thinned Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna before details were picked out with a fine brush.

Finally, the uniform and helmet were painted with Vallejo acrylics.

CONCLUSION

Tamiya has delivered another excellent model with their brand new Somua S35.

Surface textures are excellent, exterior detail is very good, and construction is a pleasure. ■

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 Somua S35 **Kit No. 35344**

Tools & Modelling Products:

Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement, Tamiya Surfacer, Tamiya Grey Putty, Tamiya Masking Tape (LOTS of it!, Revell Contacta Plastic Glue, Selleys Super Glue, Mr Dissolved Putty, J's Work Chipping Effect Pen Set, Optivisor, Testor Aztek A470 airbrush, Iwata HP-CP Airbrush

Paints & Finishing Products:

Vehicle:
Tamiya Spray Cans - White Primer
Gunze Mr Color Lacquer Paint - 117 RLM 76 Light Blue; 122 RLM 82 Light Green; Sky (from three-colour RAF set).
Tamiya Acrylic - X-27 Clear Red; XF-1 Flat Black; XF-57 Buff; XF-60 Dark Yellow; XF-64 Red Brown.
Mr Color Leveling Thinner 400
Vallejo Acrylics - Various
Figures - Uniforms:
Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics
Trousers - 332 Highlight Japan Tkcr.; highlights using Vallejo Model Colour 847 Dark Sand and 919 Foundation White (two different mixes).
Jacket - 333 Germ. Tkcr. (Black); highlights using 337 Highlight Germ. Tkcr. (Black).
Flesh:
Base Coat: Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics - 341 Flesh Base + 342 Flesh Highlight mix (mostly the highlight shade).
Wash: Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna.
Variations and Highlights: Vallejo Panzer Aces and Model Colour acrylics - 341 Flesh Base; 342 Flesh Highlight; 919 Foundation White (mixed various).
General Detailing (all Vallejo Model Colour acrylics) - 70862 Black Grey; 919 Foundation White.
Wilder - FX01 Fixer; NL02 Deep Shadow Wash
MIG Pigments - P042 Ochre Rust; P414 Track Brown; P416 Fresh Rust.
Easy Mud Item No. 21105 - European Earth
Black Magic (blackening agent)

✓ High level of detail; authentic surface textures; brilliant individual track links; excellent fit; optional position hatches; varied marking choices.

✗ Lifting hooks missing from small top turret.

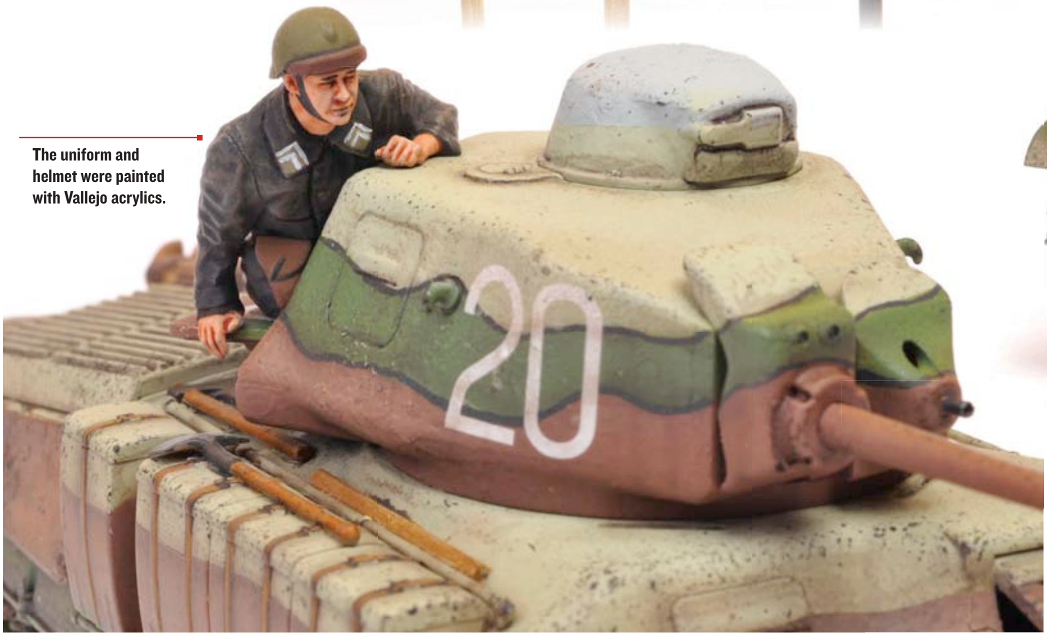
Available from

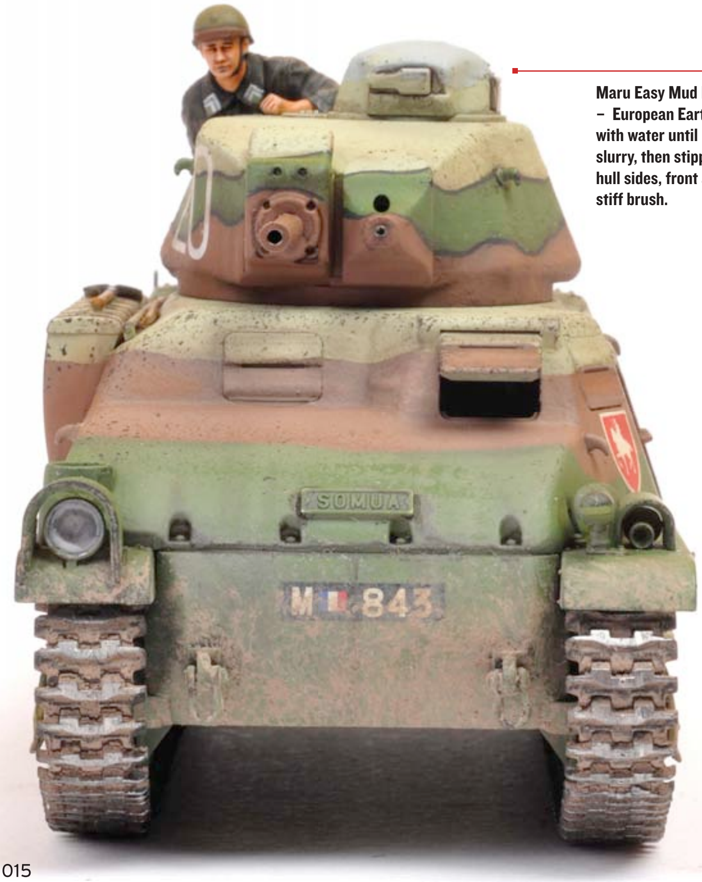
Thanks to Tamiya Japan for the sample www.tamiya.com
Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by
The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

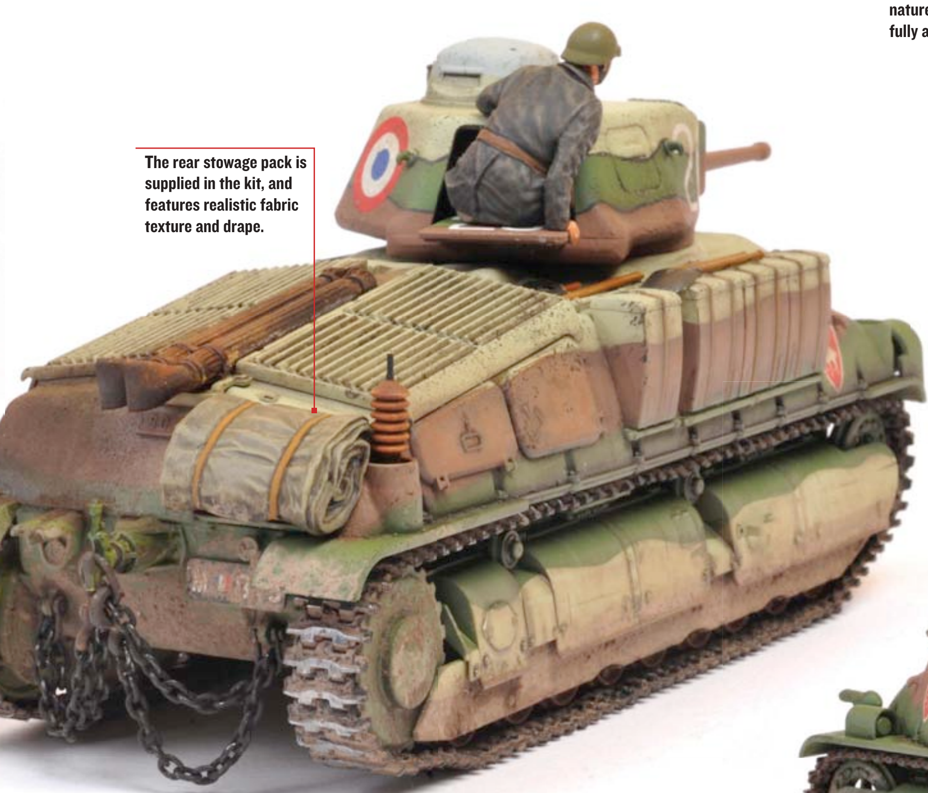
Tamiya supplies a nicely moulded Commander figure.

Facial features were given a wash with heavily thinned Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna before details were picked out with a fine brush.

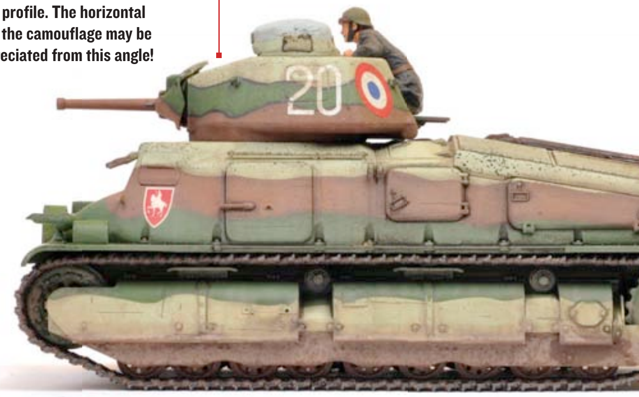

The uniform and helmet were painted with Vallejo acrylics.


Maru Easy Mud Item No. 21105 – European Earth was mixed with water until it was a muddy slurry, then stippled to the lower hull sides, front and rear with a stiff brush.

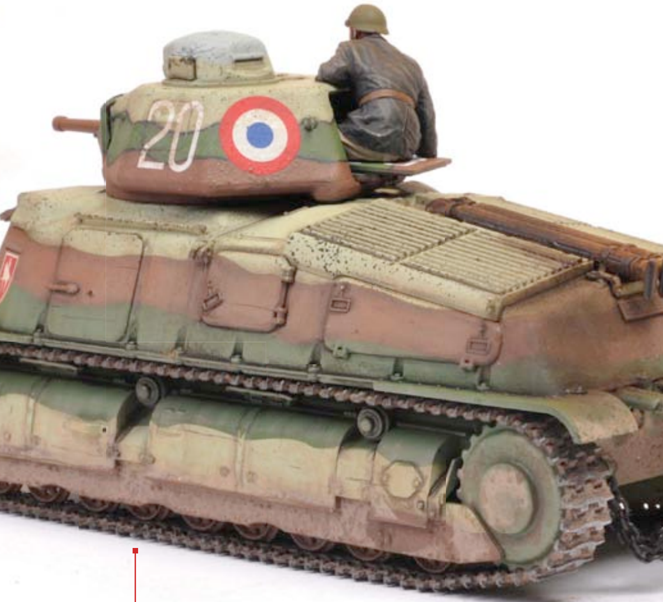
The muzzle of the turret machine gun was drilled out and painted black before a quick rub with the tip of a 2B pencil.



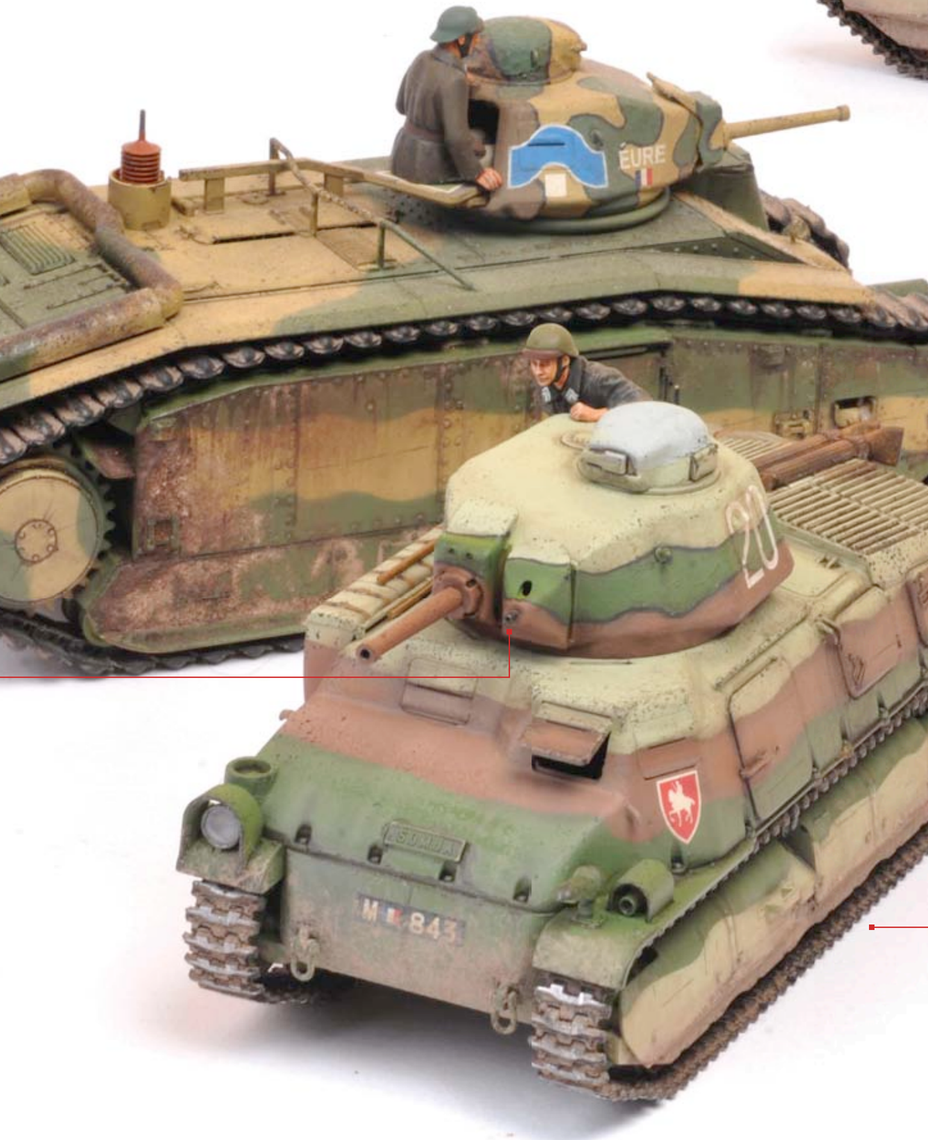
The rear stowage pack is supplied in the kit, and features realistic fabric texture and drape.



Somua in profile. The horizontal nature of the camouflage may be fully appreciated from this angle!

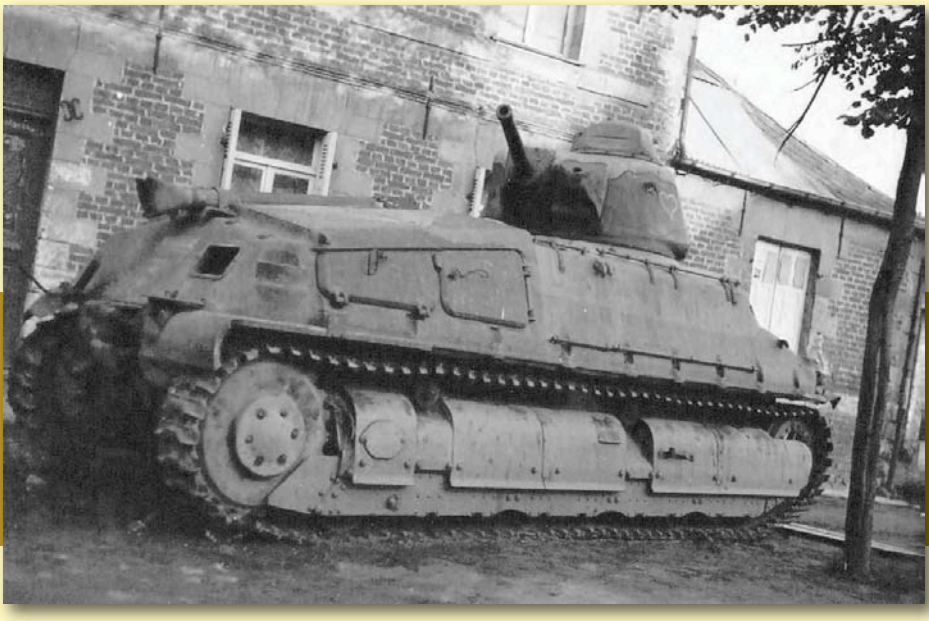


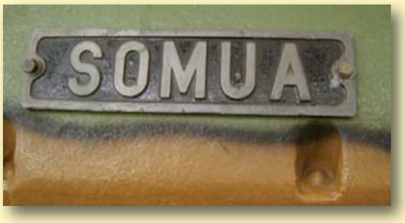
Each track run is 104 links, as suggested by Tamiya in the instructions. Several spares are provided in case of mishap.



The Somua is significantly smaller than the Char B1 bis, as may be seen in this comparison photo between the two Tamiya kits.

> **"The Somua S35 sported a wide range of schemes apparently inspired less by the need for concealment than by Art Deco…"**

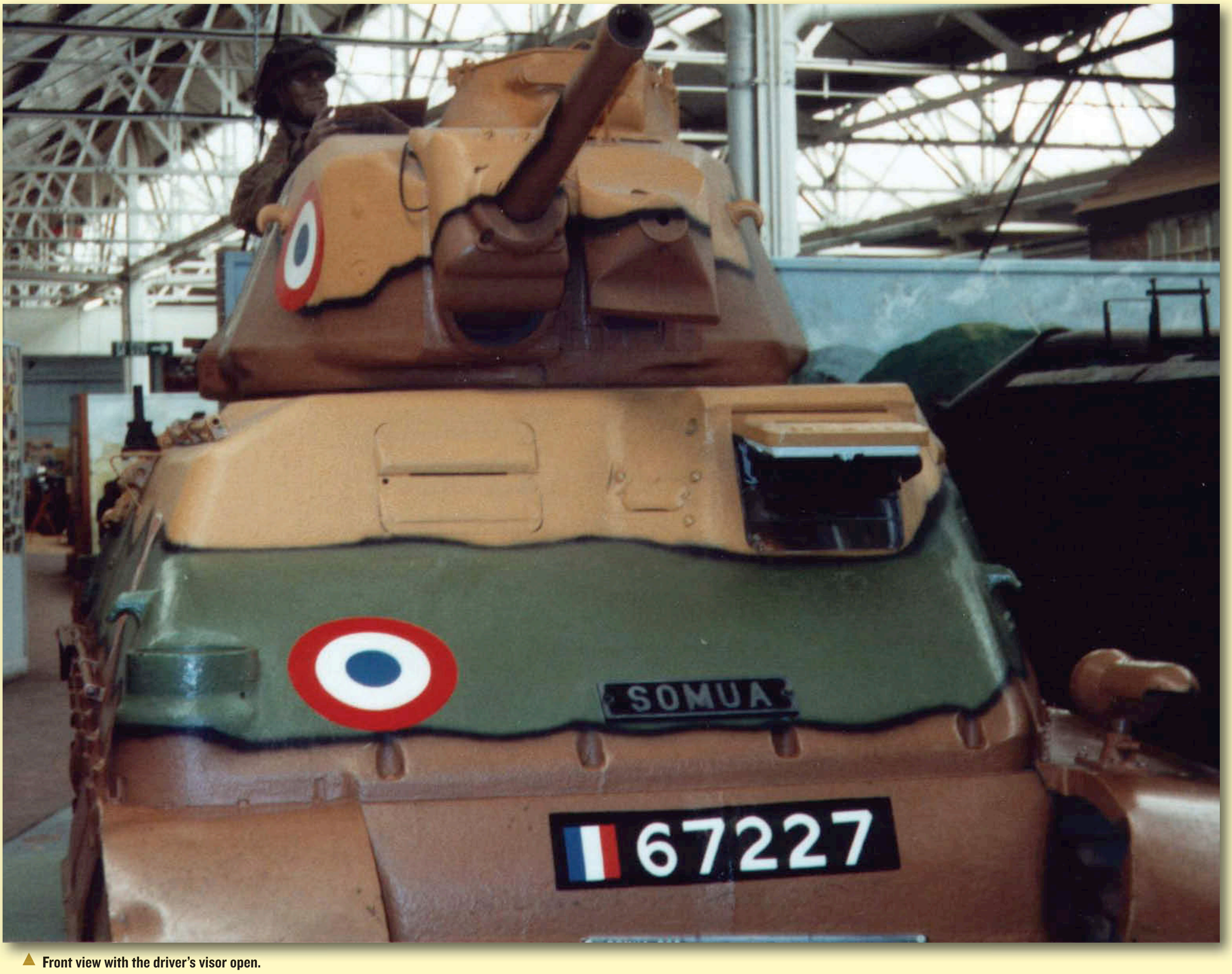




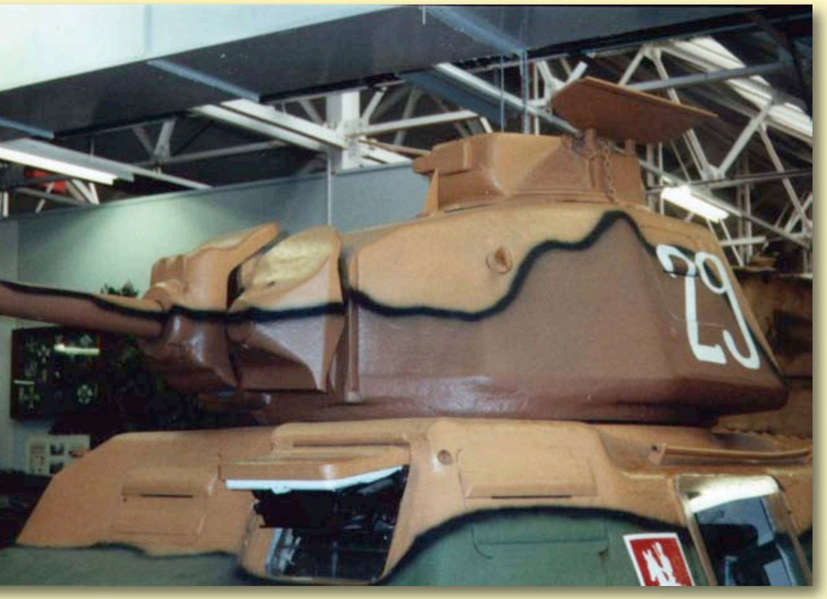
▲ Name badge on the front hull.

Graham Tetley offers some real-life close-up detail for modellers building Tamiya's brand new 1:35 scale Somua S35.

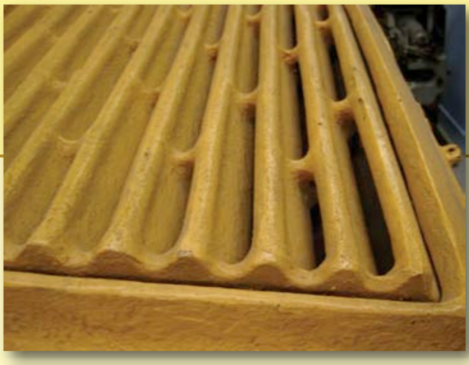
SOMUA S35 CLOSE-UP



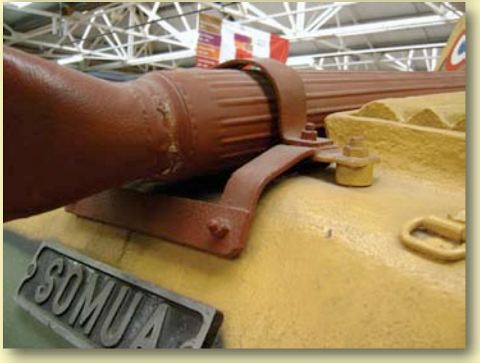
▲ Front view with the driver's visor open.



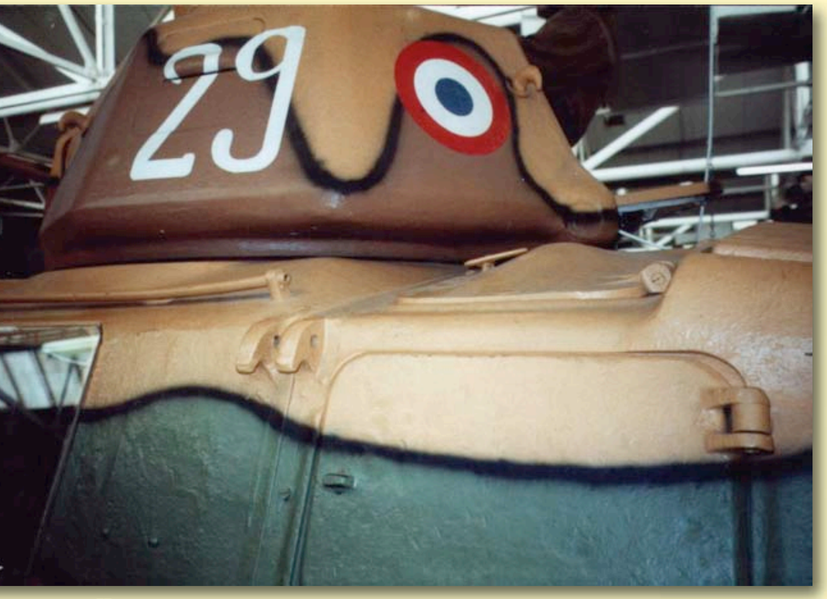
▲ Side view of the turret.



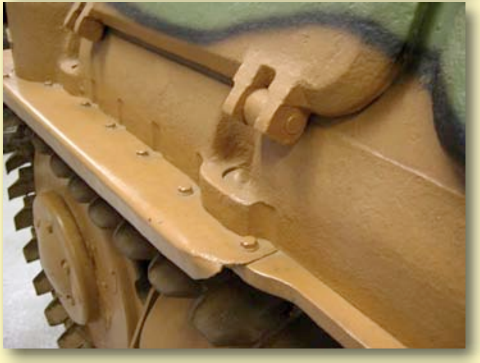
See-through engine deck cast metal grille. ▶



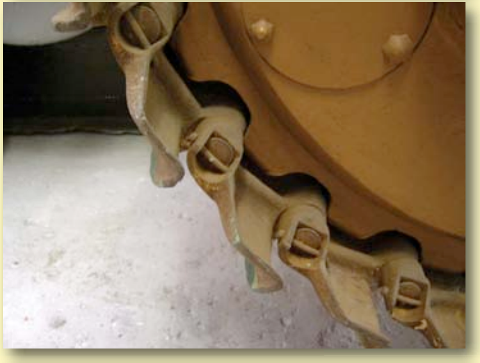
Close-up detail of the mount for the muffler and exhaust. ▶



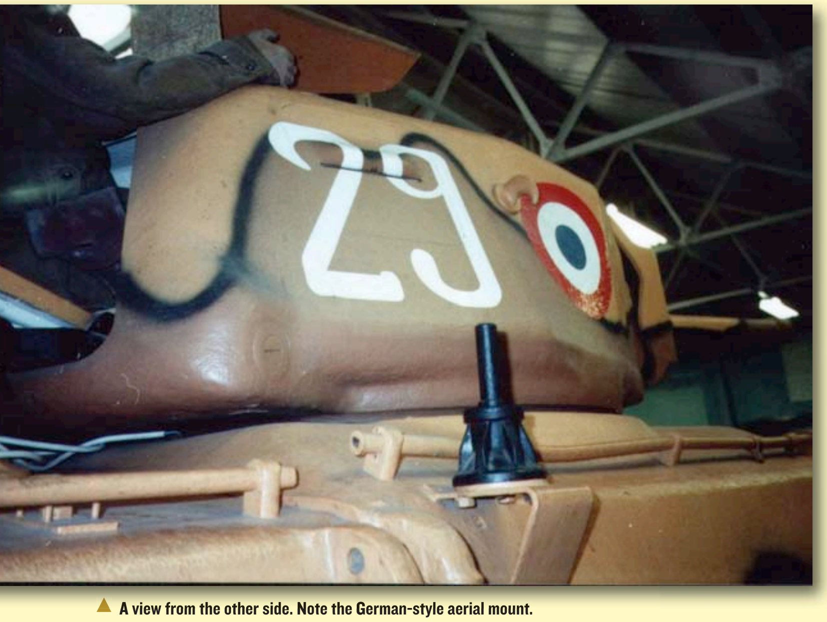
▲ A close look at the lifting hooks and hull cast texture.



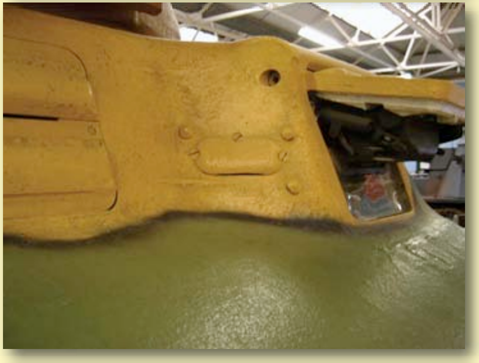
Hinge detail of the side engine cover. ▶



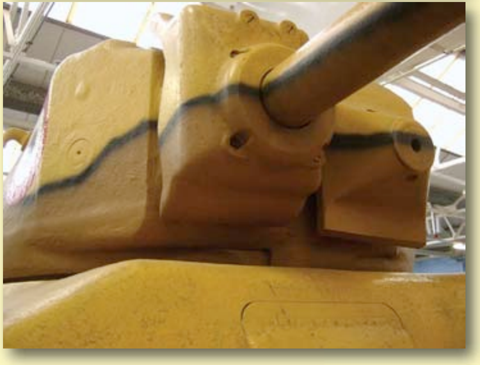
An excellent close-up view of track link edge detail. ▶



▲ A view from the other side. Note the German-style aerial mount.



Driver's armour detail. ▶



Main gun mantlet. ▶

ZiL-131
Soviet Army Truck
ICM
New in the Best
52 - 71pn
SCALE
1:35

GENERAL PURPOSE

Andy King examines ICM's 1:35 scale ZiL-131 general purpose Soviet Army Truck.

The ZiL-131 is a general purpose truck that was first seen in 1966. Powered by a V8 engine capable of producing 150bhp it weighs in at 6.7 tons, can carry a maximum weight on paved roads of 5000kg or tow artillery pieces up to 4000kg. The chassis has been used for many variants including the Grad-1 artillery rocket launcher and nearly a million of these trucks were made up until production stopped in 1994, the type was also widely exported to many countries around the world.

Unlike most releases from ICM this kit comes in quite a sturdy top-opening box and contains six sprues in a sandy coloured styrene, one clear sprue, eight vinyl tyres and a decal sheet.

The parts are well moulded with only some light flash in places however there are some pin marks in visible areas such as the insides of the rear cargo area and the undersides of the fenders, I also noticed a couple of light ones on the outside of the chassis rails that would probably show up under a coat of paint but these can all be rectified easily enough.

The cabin glazing is blemish free and quite thin compared to that supplied in previous kits by ICM and the decal sheet looks good although the two Russian flags are slightly out of register and will need the sides trimming to straighten them up.

The vinyl tyres are okay but they all have a line of flash around the circumference plus, compared to photos of the real vehicle, the tread pattern looks a bit suspect and I get the feeling they may be a bit narrow too. Fortunately resin replacements by DEF Model, Panzershop etc are readily available.

Also included is a full engine block that will only require the various leads and cables adding to enhance it and even though the option isn't given it shouldn't be too hard to have the bonnet (or hood) open.

The chassis is also very well detailed and will only need brake hoses, fuel lines and cable adding but care will be needed to put it together as it's a multi part assembly and critical that you get it square and flat. Sitting the chassis on a sheet of glass with a gentle weight on top helps with this while it sets.

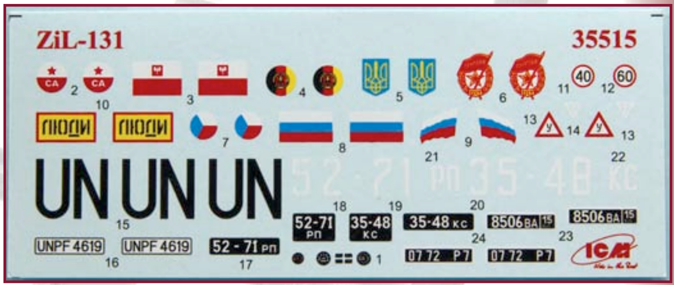
As mentioned earlier, the rear cargo area has a few irritating pin marks on the insides that will need removing also the supports for the canvas tilt could have been better done as these are moulded together in three parts and devoid of any detail on the inside faces, these would be better replaced with brass strip.

As is usual with ICM kits, the smaller details are very fine such as the door handles and wiper blades. They have also had a good go at the brush guards for the headlights as these are notoriously difficult to reproduce well in kits. They tend to look flat and two-dimensional from photo-etched parts, but these are very nicely done, just needing careful cleanup with a scalpel to remove the fine flash.

There are just two colour schemes to choose from; green with markings for Russian vehicles from the 1980s to the late 2000s, and former Warsaw Pact countries or a vehicle in UN Forces white.

The model certainly captures the rugged look of the ZiL-131 and without going overboard on aftermarket goodies it should build up quite nicely straight from the box, although for me resin replacement wheels are definitely on the shopping list.

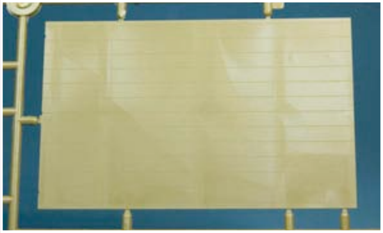
Highly Recommended. ■

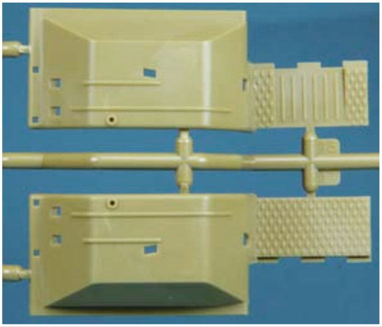


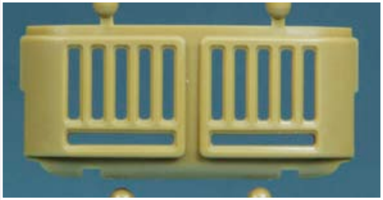
Two marking options are offered on the kit decal sheet.

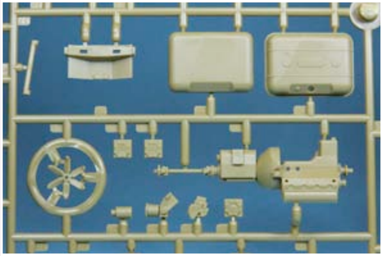
History via: http://www.military-today.com/trucks/zil_131.htm
Other useful sites include;
http://www.russianmilitarytrucks.com/downloads.htm (technical manuals for the ZiL-131)
http://www.primeportal.net/trucks/egor_kalmykov/zil-131/

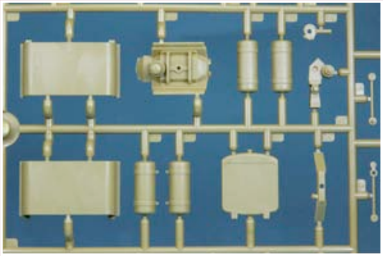
Thanks to Creative Models Ltd for the review sample
www.creativemodels.co.uk

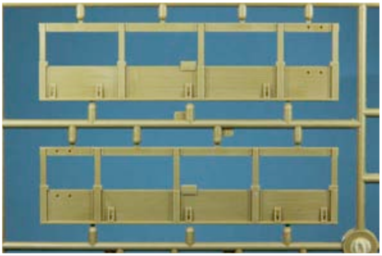

The cargo deck.

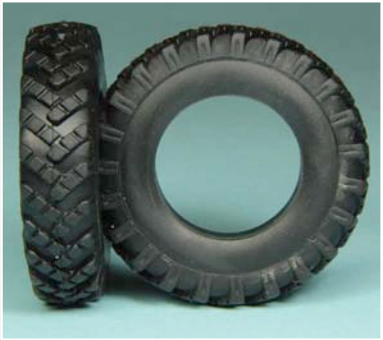

Anti-slip tread plate on the running boards.


The front grille is see-through.


Engine detail is included.


Standard of moulding is very high.


Cargo drop sides.


The vinyl tyres.

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More pictures in March Issue:

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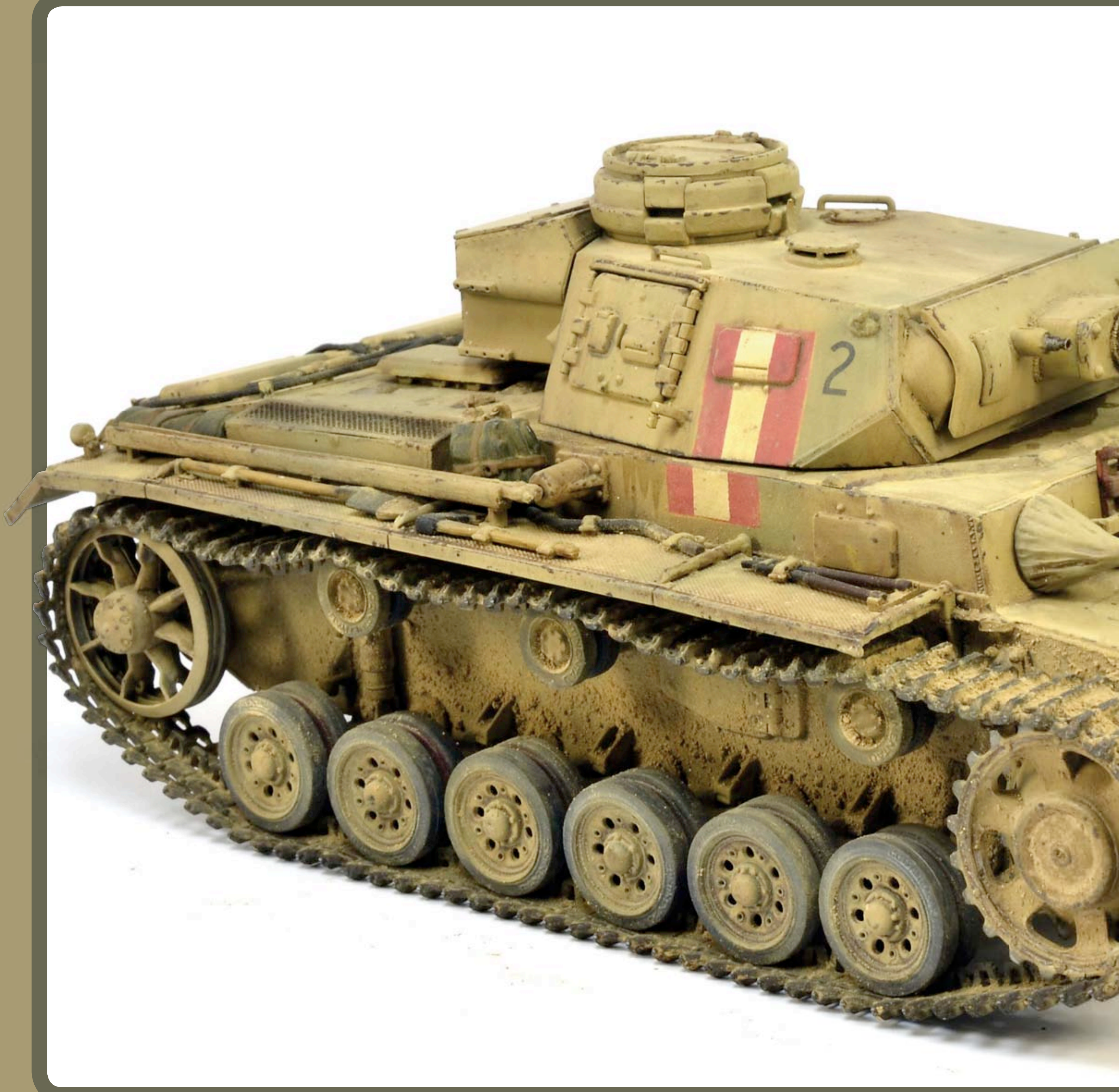
CARPATHIA

Pawel Rzymski presents a unique Panzer III that saw service with the Polish Independent Carpathian Brigade in North Africa.



AN PANZER

The Carpathian Uhlans Regiment was part of the Polish Independent Carpathian Brigade which was first created by Polish government on exile in France.

The brigade was reformed in 1940 North Africa (in French Syria) and became part of the French Army of Levant. After the defeat of France, the French troops declared themselves loyal to Marshal Petain and his government of Vichy. Shortly after, the Polish brigade left the French territory to join British troops in Palestine.

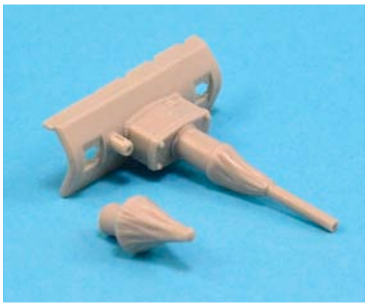
Between June 1940 and March 1942 over five thousand soldiers of the brigade fought in defence of Tobruk, took part in the attack on the Axis Gazala defensive line and on the attack Bardia stronghold. Later, in March 1942, the brigade was reformed into the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division and victoriously thought in Italy in battles of Monte Cassino, Ancona and Bologna as the part of the Polish 2nd Corps.

A long time ago while browsing afrikakorps.org site (which doesn't exist any more) I found a photo of General Harold Alexander visiting Polish troops of the Carpathians Uhlans Regiment in front of their... Panzer III!

The information I was able to find was that the regiment was in need for training equipment. At that time every possible piece of usable equipment was to be sent to front line units, so the British command gave the permission to issue some Panzer III tanks from the captured equipment depot. In this way a platoon of Polish Panzer III was created. It consisted of three tanks numbered 1-3 with white and red bands on the sides of the turret and hull.

This story inspired me to create my first desert build.

Project Elements



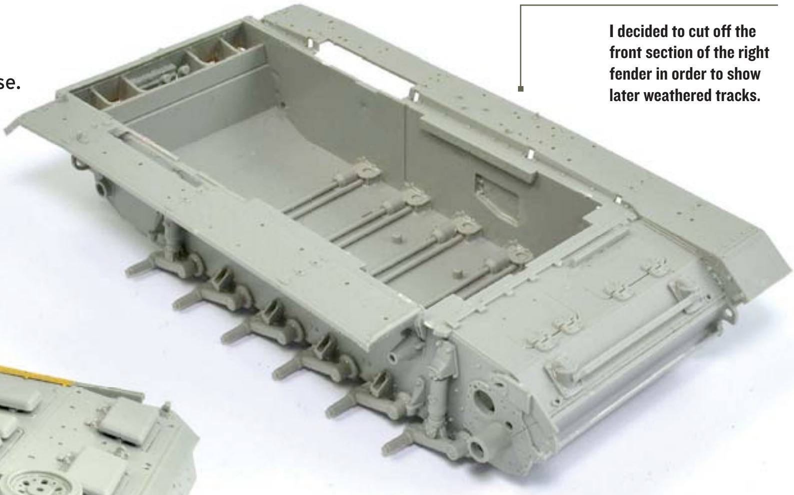
For this project I chose to use Dragon's Panzer III Ausf. J kit n°6394, and also ordered a few after market upgrades - two Panzer Art resin items: Panzer III G/H/J Mantlet with Canvas Cover (RE35-014) and Hull MG Barrel with Canvas Cover for Panzer III/ IV Tanks (RE35-040), Echelon Decals Polish Carpathian Lancer (D356046) and RB Model coaxial machine gun barrel MG34 (35B38).

POLISH CARPATHIAN LANCER
D356046
123

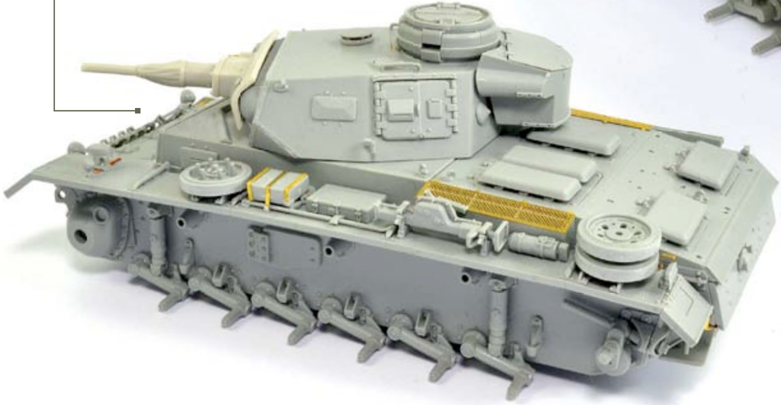
Looking at the reference picture the build seemed to be pretty straightforward as there were no special features beside the canvas on the main gun and machine gun and those were covered by the Panzer Art resin upgrades.

Construction

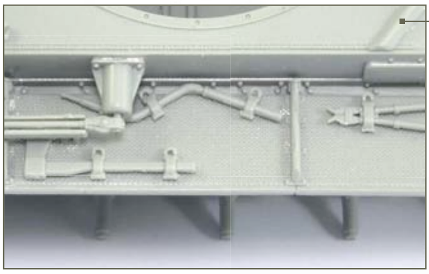
Let's get started! I commenced with the lower hull and fenders. Nothing really tricky here but I have taken a bit of artistic license.



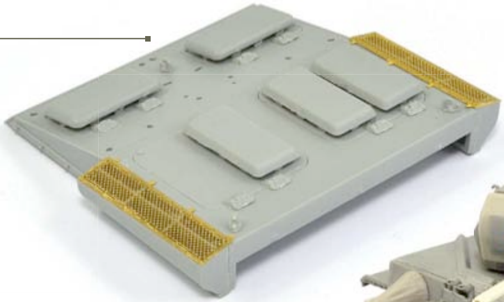
I decided to cut off the front section of the right fender in order to show later weathered tracks.



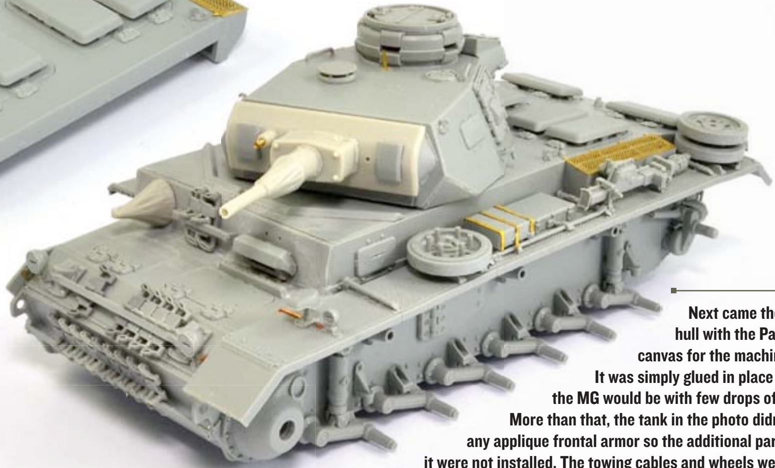
The sprocket and the idler were not glued while working on the suspension. If they were it would have been a big headache to place the tracks on later. The wheels were left unglued to make painting the outside and inside easy.



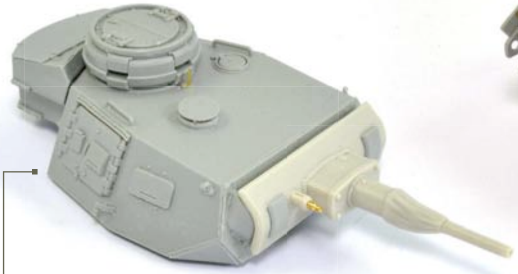
All pioneer tools were installed at this time. The moulded tool clamps haven't been replaced by photo-etched parts but instead thinned. After polishing they look pretty convincing and they required a lot less of work and stress.



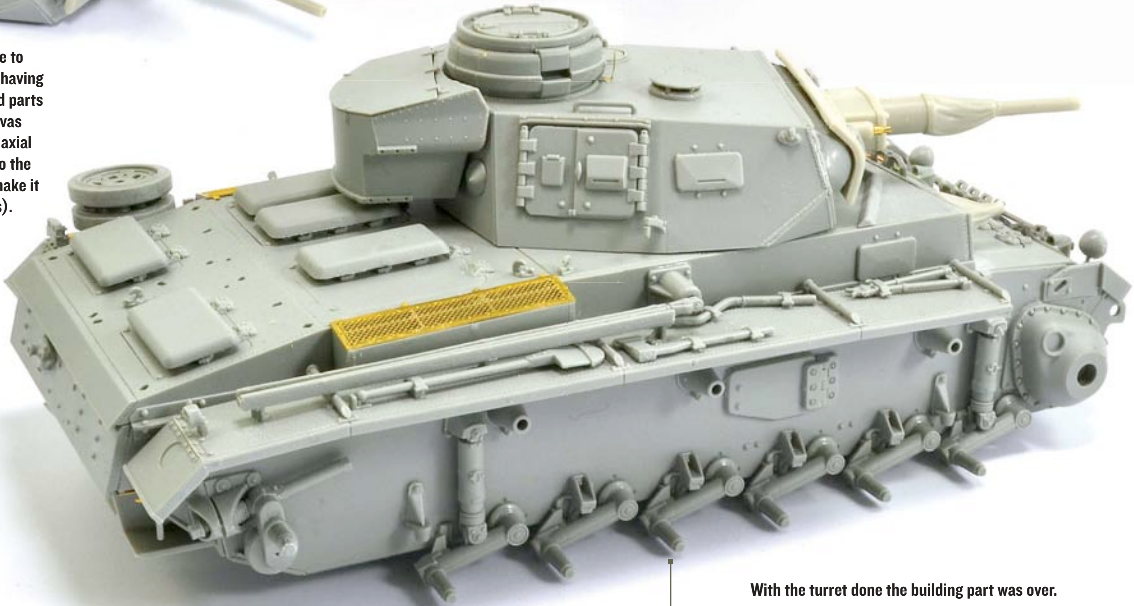
The wooden block on the left fender got PE stripes instead of those moulded on. In this case the additional time spent is really worth it. For additional detail the Bosh headlight got a copper wire as it is not provided in the kit. The kit's own photo-etched parts were used for the engine deck.



Next came the upper hull with the Panzer Art canvas for the machine gun. It was simply glued in place where the MG would be with few drops of CA glue. More than that, the tank in the photo didn't show any applique frontal armor so the additional parts for it were not installed. The towing cables and wheels were not installed either in order to make the painting easier.

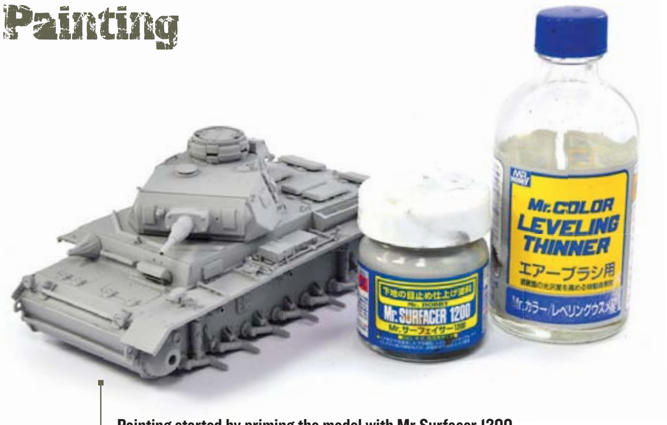


Finally it was the right time to get the turret ready. After having assembled all the standard parts the resin mantlet with canvas together with the metal coaxial MG added on were glued to the turret (it's impossible to make it moveable like the kit parts).

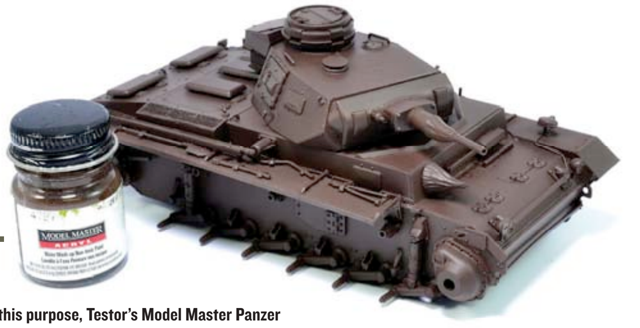


With the turret done the building part was over.

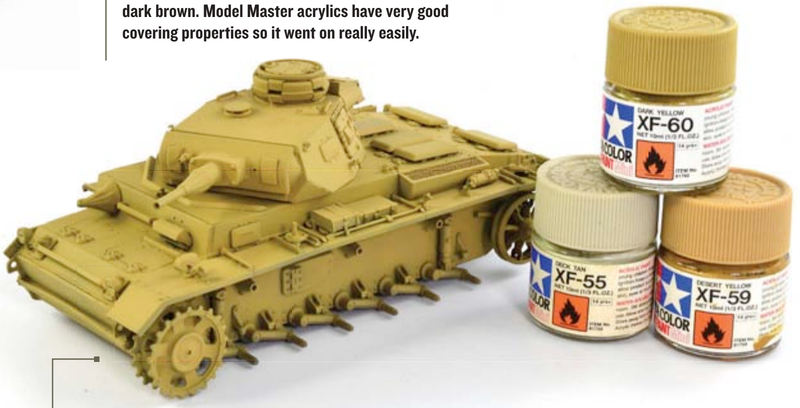
Painting



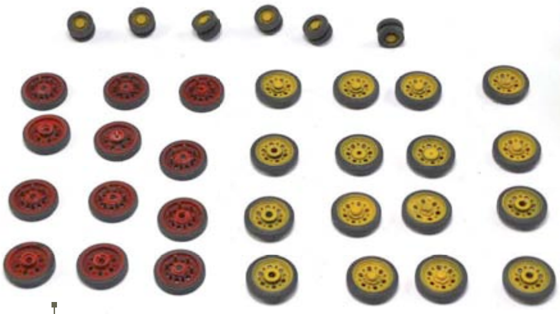
Painting started by priming the model with Mr Surfacer 1200 thinned with Mr Levelling thinner (Gunze's thinner with retarder). Mr Surfacer dried very quickly and didn't reveal any problems so the same evening dark pre-shade was sprayed.



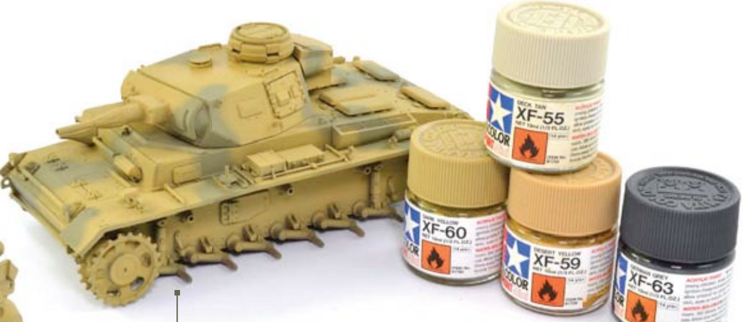
For this purpose, Testor's Model Master Panzer Schokoladen Braun 4797 was chosen. It's a nice very dark brown. Model Master acrylics have very good covering properties so it went on really easily.



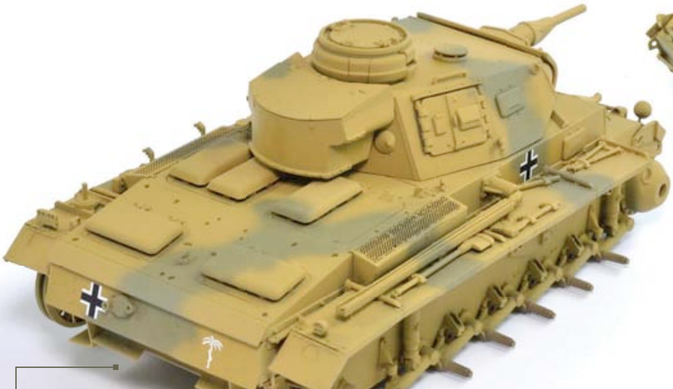
The idea here was to paint the model as it would be a standard German vehicle in North Africa (which in fact it really was on the beginning) and then make it look like the one while in Polish service. While searching for the right Tamiya paint mix for the base colour I found Tom Cockle's recipe for DAK RAL 8020: 4 parts XF-60 Dark Yellow mixed with 4 parts XF-59 Desert Yellow and 3 parts XF-55 Deck Tan (4/4/3). The paints were mixed and thinned to something like milk consistency. The paint was applied in few passes to build up the colour without covering totally the dark pre shade. At least that was the plan… in reality it was not so evident at the end. The "heavy hand" made the dark brown colour almost completely disappear. Oh well… maybe next time.



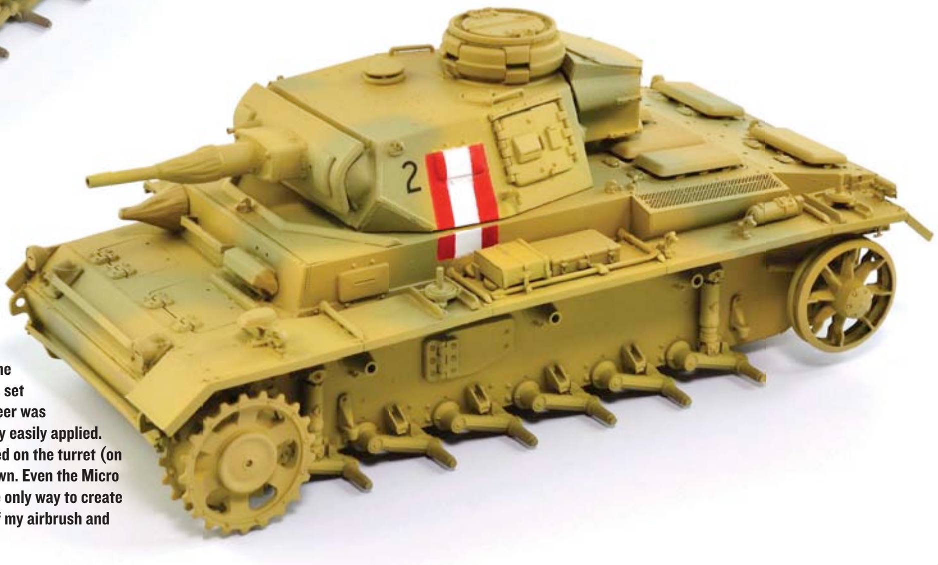
Continuing the work, all the wheels were painted with Panzer Aces 70306 Dark Rubber, a very nice dark grey colour much better then ordinary black. Then, using a plastic circle template (the kind the kids get for school), the wheels got two types of painting. On the outside, the yellowish base colour, and red oxide primer on the inside. After that, the two halves of each wheel were glued together.



The camouflage for the DAK vehicles in this case was the RAL 7027. The mix was done with the same colours as the base + 2 parts of XF-63 Panzer Grey (4/4/3/2). It was airbrushed freehand and it turned out quite well.



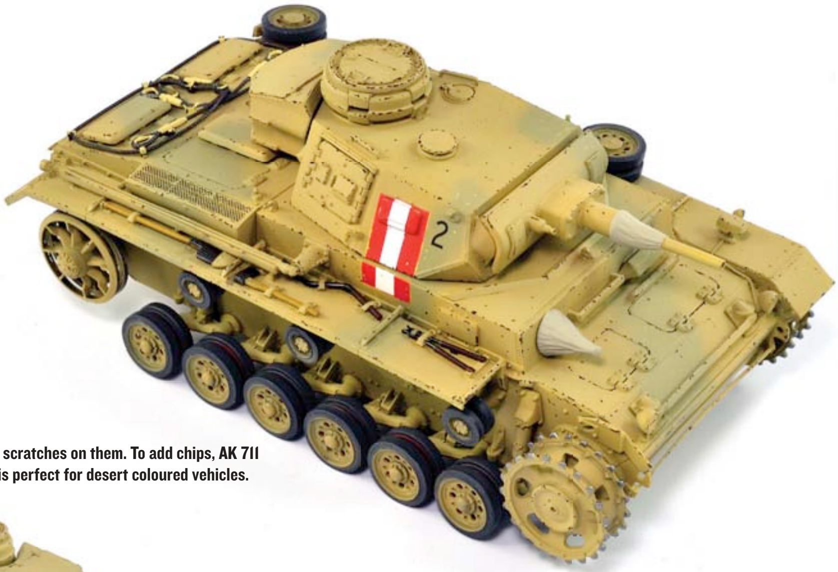
The tank received a few German markings that I hoped would be partially visible at the very end of the project. The next task was to unify the camouflage with the base colour. Several thin layers of mix of XF-55 Deck Tan and XF-60 Dark Yellow were airbrushed on the model. It reduced the contrast and made the model look more like the real thing.



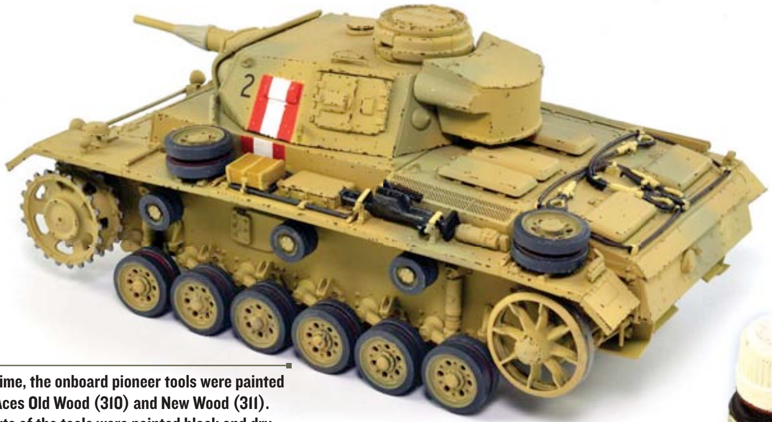
With the general painting done, I moved to the special markings applied by the Polish soldiers. These consisted of a simple tactical number ("2" in my case) and red and white stripes on the side of the turret and side hull. Those elements came from the Echelon Decals set dedicated to those vehicles. Prior to applying decals, Johnson's Kleer was airbrushed to prevent decals from silvering. The numbers were very easily applied. The stripes on the turret did not perform so well. After being applied on the turret (on the uneven part with visors) it was impossible to make them lie down. Even the Micro Set and Micro Sol didn't help. Finally the decals fell apart… and the only way to create the markings I had left was to paint them by myself. With the aid of my airbrush and masking tape the stripes were finally painted.

Weathering

PANZER ACES
acrilico-vinilico
AV vallejo
311 New Wood
PANZER ACES
acrilico-vinilico
AV vallejo
310 Old Wood
AK interactive
AIRBRUSH
acrylic color
Color AK 711



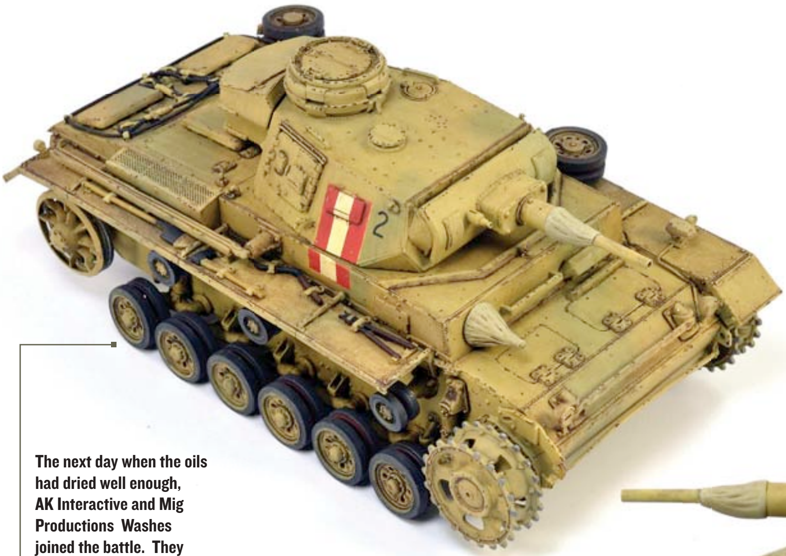
Even if these Panzer III served mainly as training vehicles there must have been some scratches on them. To add chips, AK 711 Chipping acrylic colour was chosen. It has a nice brown and slightly rusty shade so it is perfect for desert coloured vehicles.



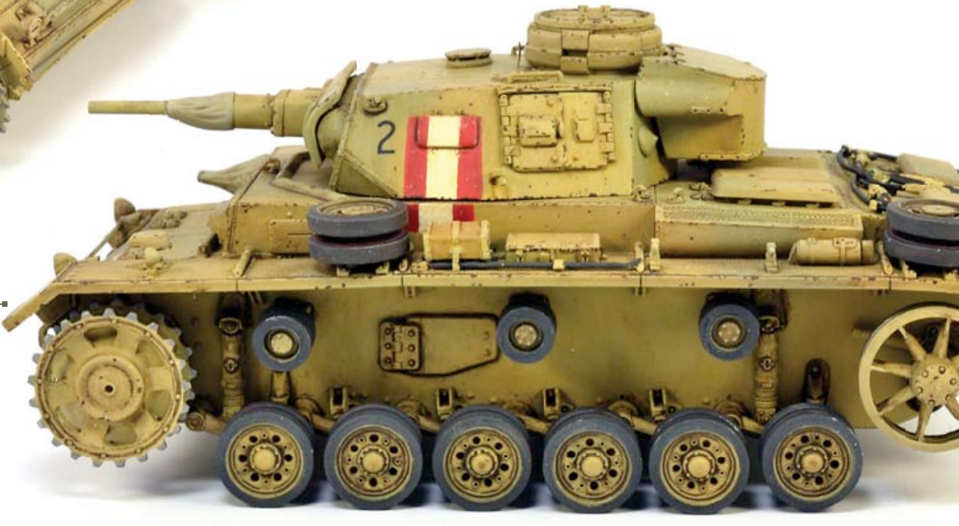
At the same time, the onboard pioneer tools were painted with Panzer Aces Old Wood (310) and New Wood (311). The metal parts of the tools were painted black and dry brushed with a metal enamel colour. The model started to look a bit less like a toy and more like a scale model.

MIG productions
DARK WASH
WASH
AK
502 Abteilung
VAN GOGH
VAN GOGH

The best part of weathering was still to come! A few days after the work started on oils and washes. First, oil paints were applied with a small round brush using the dot technique. A few moments later most of the paint (but not all of it) was wiped off with a brush moistened with white spirit. It created very good looking dirty traces.



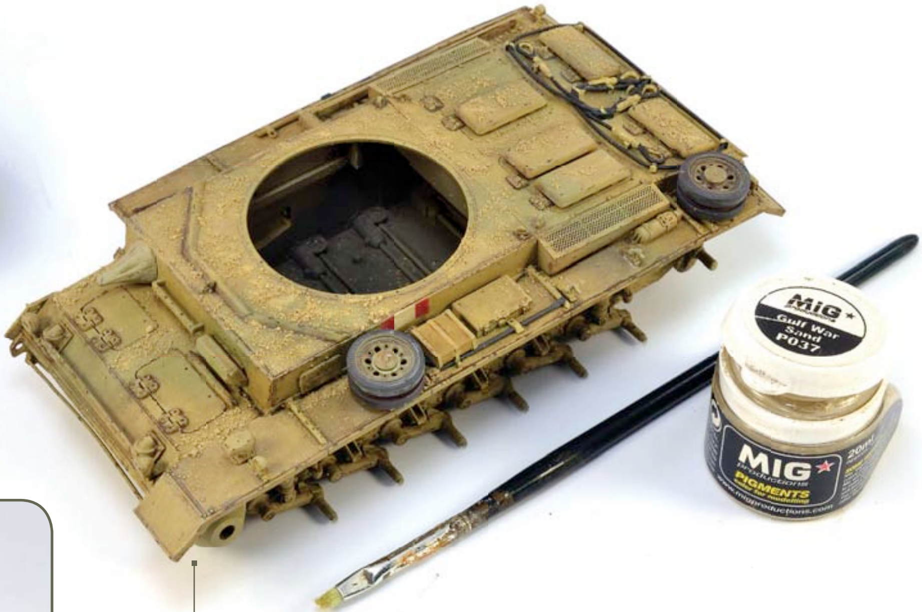
The next day when the oils had dried well enough, AK Interactive and Mig Productions Washes joined the battle. They were carefully applied in all recesses and around raised points with a thin round brush adding more depth to the model. Where necessary, the excess was cleaned off with white spirit. That was it for the upper hull, turret and wheels - for now still off the vehicle.



For the lower hull (especially the area behind the wheels) AK's OIF & OEF Streaking Effects (AK 123) were chosen as their thicker consistency permitted more visible traces. It was an important factor in view of the further weathering to come shortly.

MIG productions
Gulf War Sand P037
MIG productions
Beach Sand P030
PIGMENTS color for modeling
www.migproductions.com

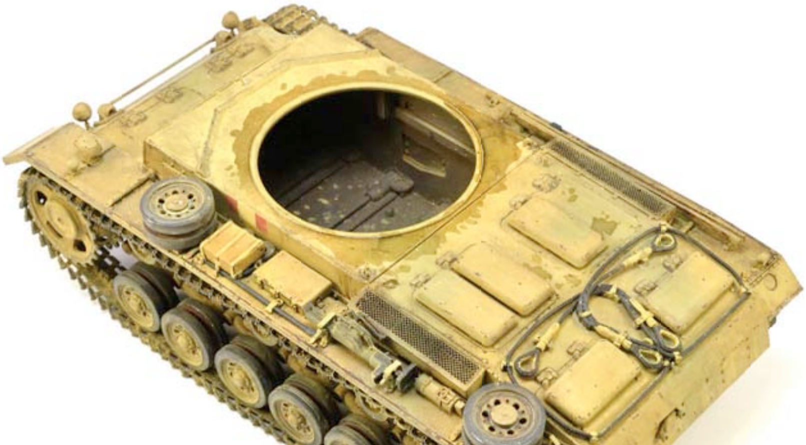
After the whole battery of oil and enamel products were used, the pigments joined the party. First I gave the model a few days rest so it could dry really well. Applying pigments was done in three steps.


MIG productions
Gulf War Sand P037
PIGMENTS

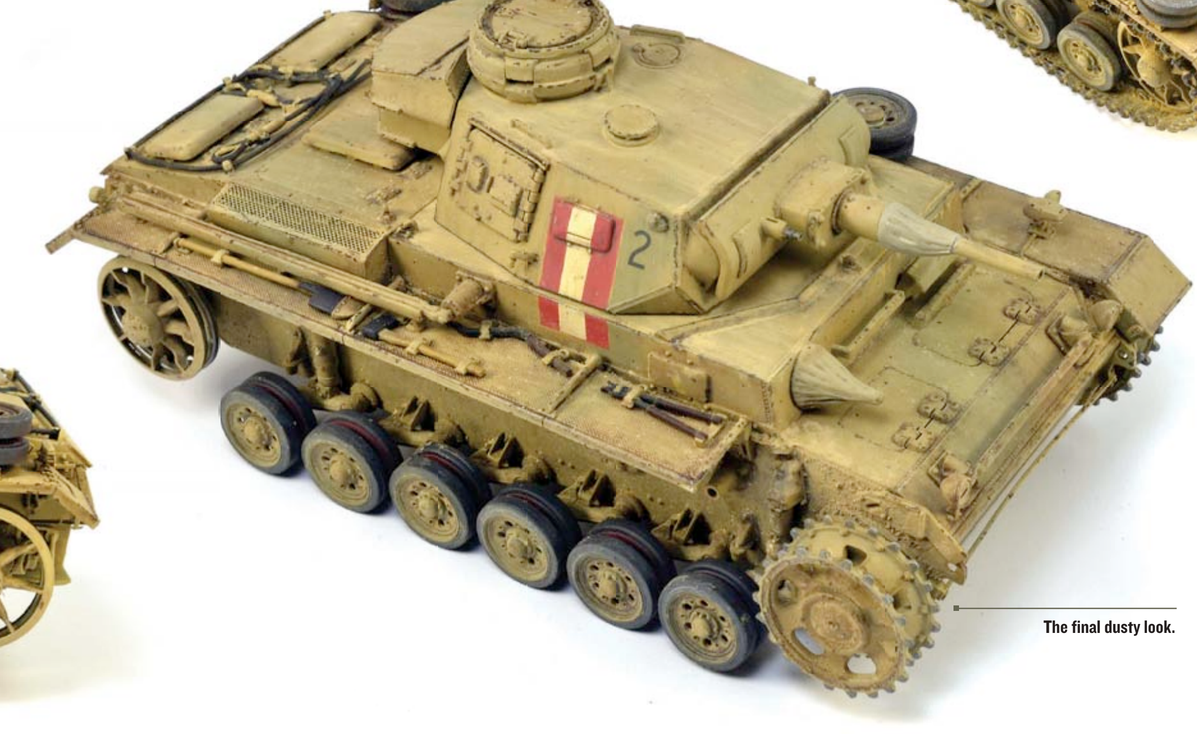
First the P037 Gulf War pigment was generously sprinkled over. Then, white spirit was airbrushed on and worked as a fixer. The very important thing here was to turn down the pressure and start applying the white spirit from a long distance (about 30 cm) in order to not to blow away the pigment. Once the white spirit dried some accumulated pigment was brushed off with a large brush. Brushing the pigment off with vertical strokes created naturally looking dusty traces.

75 ml
MIG productions
WET EFFECTS and DAMP EARTH mixture
www.migproductions.com
75 ml
MIG productions
THINNER FOR WASHES
www.migproductions.com
AK interactive
FUEL STAINS
enamel color

Oily stains followed shortly after. Using thinned with white spirit Fuel Stains and Wet Effects liquids stains were applied on the engine deck and around the turret ring.

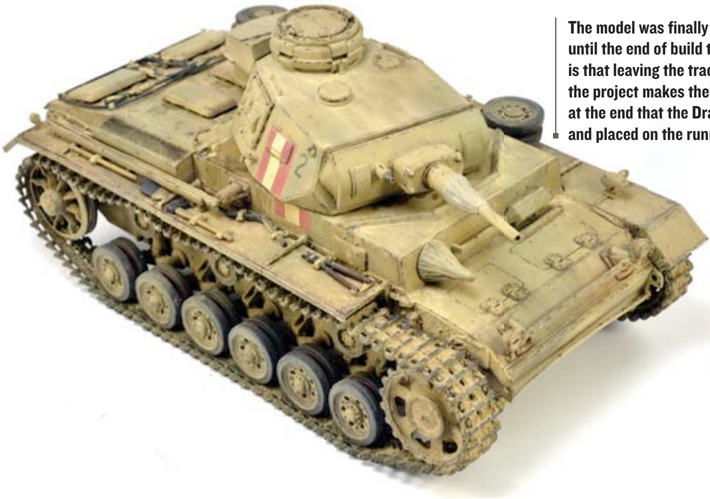


Oily stains were applied on the engine deck and around the turret by applying with a small brush diluted with WS mix of AK Fuel Stains and Mig Wet Effects



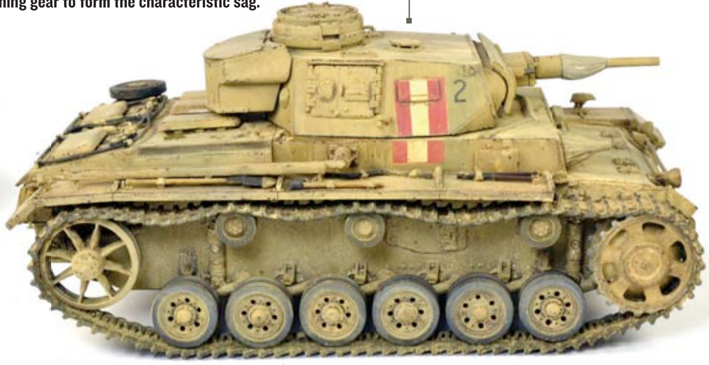
The final dusty look.

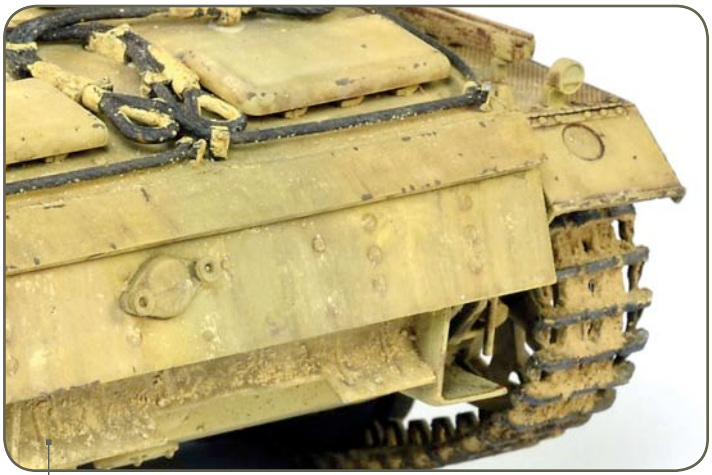
Tracks and Finishing Touches



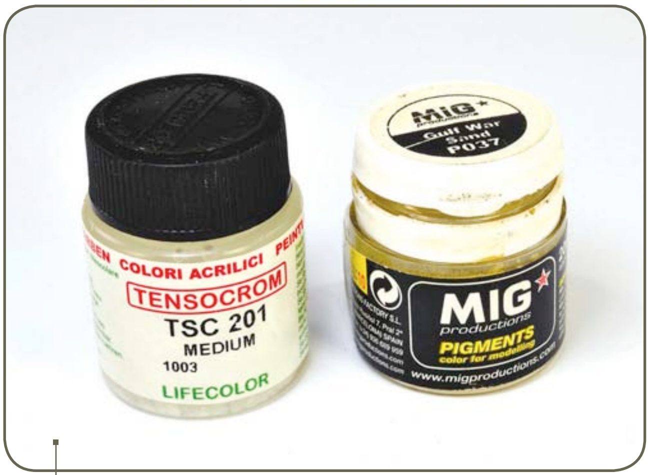
The model was finally ready to for the tracks. I very often wait until the end of build to put the tracks on. The clear advantage is that leaving the tracks not mounted until almost the end of the project makes their weathering much easier. So it was only at the end that the Dragon's Magic Tracks were glued together and placed on the running gear to form the characteristic sag.

The tracks were then painted with mix of black and brown acrylic paint. An important quantity of pigment was applied and fixed with pigment fixer.



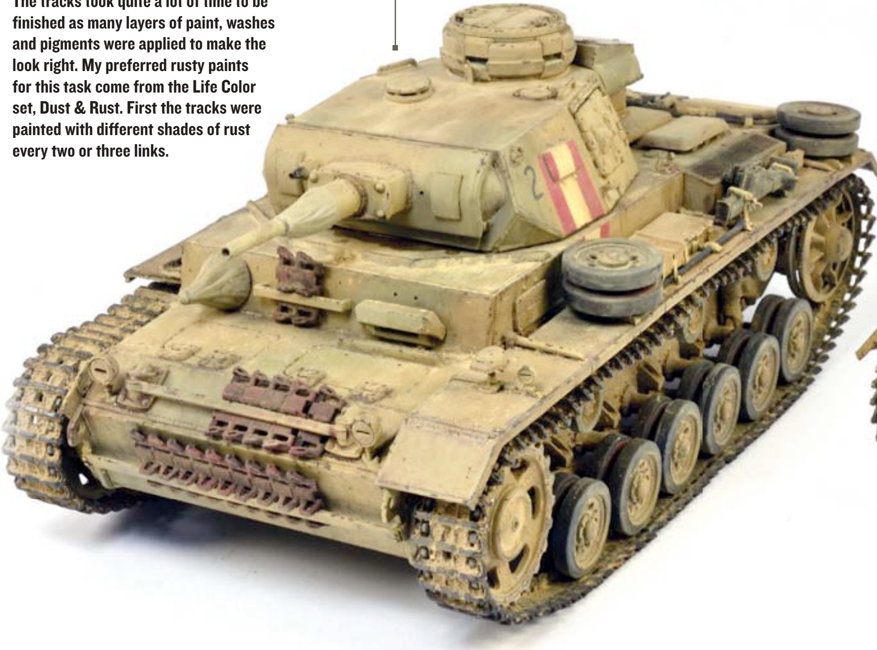


The places were the metal would have been worn because of rolling on the hard ground were treated with a very soft pencil (8B). Those pencils are very handy and may be also used for colouring some hard edges that one would like to show worn. Finally the tracks were placed for the last time in place. It was only than the idler and the sprocket were glued to the hull.

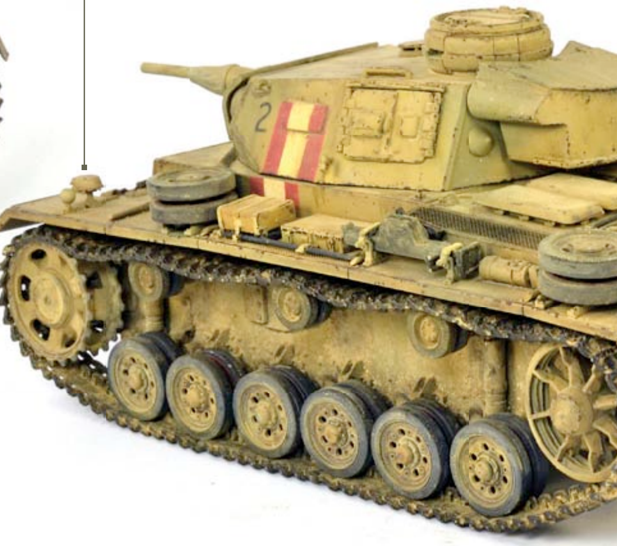


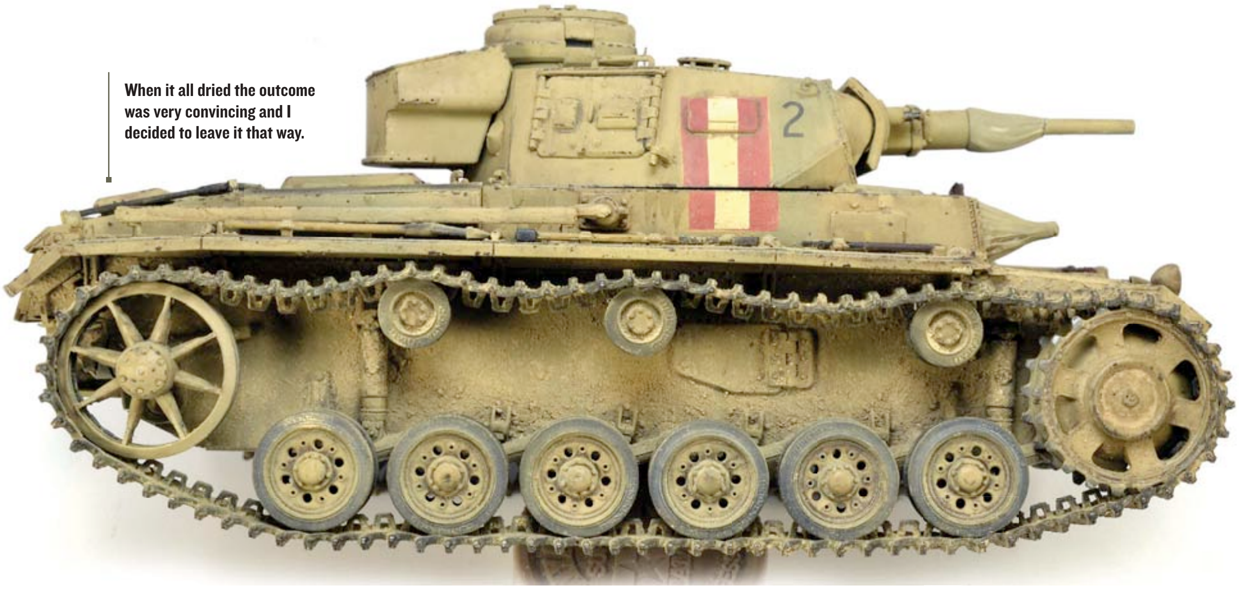
Taking a good look on the lower hull behind the wheels I estimated that the amount of dust (pigment) was not sufficient. To remedy I called for help the Tensocrom Medium which was gently applied and sparkled with more pigments.

The tracks took quite a lot of time to be finished as many layers of paint, washes and pigments were applied to make the look right. My preferred rusty paints for this task come from the Life Color set, Dust & Rust. First the tracks were painted with different shades of rust every two or three links.



They were then chipped with darker rust using a sponge and finally washed with Track Wash. The very last thing was an application of the Gulf War Pigment, which nicely attenuated the rust.

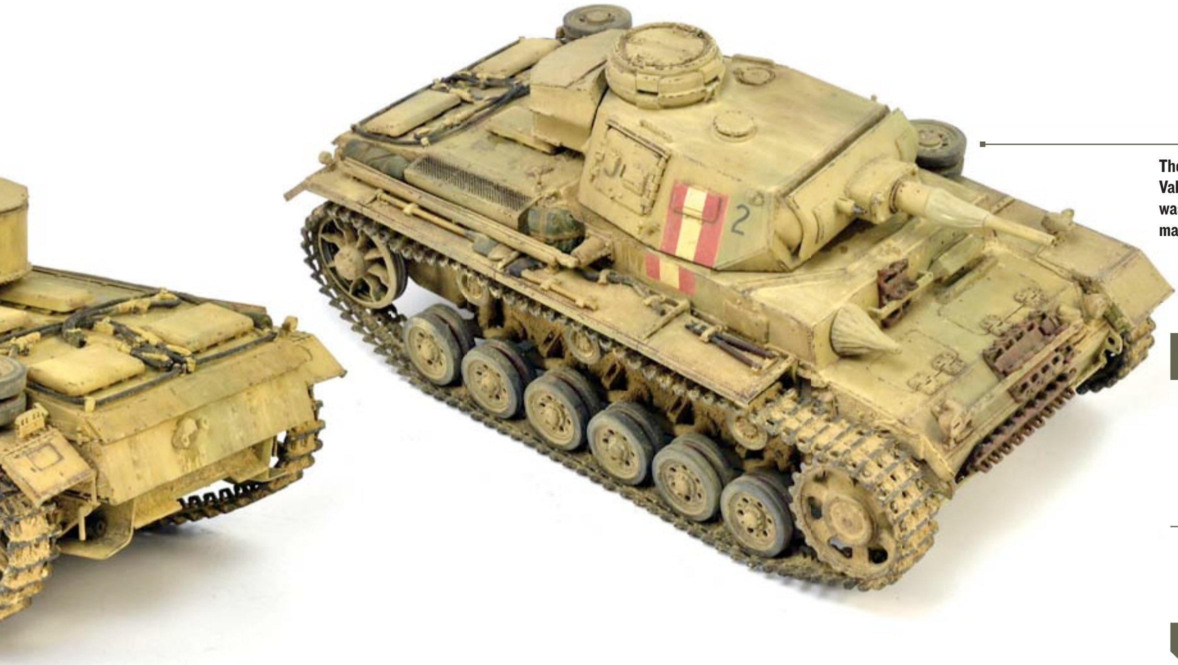




When it all dried the outcome was very convincing and I decided to leave it that way.

enamel WASH
TRACK WASH
AK
LIFECOLOR
UA 702
UA 703
UA 704
MIG
PIGMENTS

The last details to be added to the model were the spare tracks on the front and some resin blankets from a Value Gear set.



The Value Gear blankets were painted with Vallejo acrylics than washed with a brown wash and dusted up with pigment so they match the whole model.

Mini Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 Panzer III Ausf. J **Kit No. 6394**

✓ Good fit; high level of detail; includes link and length “Magic Tracks”.

✗ Some tricky assembly sections.

Available from

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○

JUNGLE RECONNAISSANCE

José Brito brings us his Panhard EBR FL-10 finished in a colourful Portuguese Army scheme from Angola in the 1960s

The origins of the Panhard EBR project started before the end of WWII, but production only took place after the end of that conflict. The first models were released to French army equipped with the FL-11 turret and a short 75mm cannon.

Later, the EBR was equipped with the FL-10 turret and a high speed 75mm cannon. Even so, for the European scenario, the vehicle was no match for the Soviet threat. So, by the end of the 1950s most of the Panhard EBR fleet was converted, replacing the FL-10 with the FL-11 turret, but this time 90mm cannon armament. The new cannon was slow, but was compensated by its large calibre.

Portugal ordered several Panhard EBRs to be used not only in Portugal but also in colonial territories including Angola.

Between 1961 and 1975, Portugal operated several Panhard EBRs in Angola during the Colonial War. The Portuguese EBRs were equipped with the FL-10 turret and the 75mm cannon. It was more than adequate for the Angola scenario.

The Portuguese EBRs were also widely used in the 25 April 1974 revolution that ended with several years of dictatorial regime in Portugal.

HOBBY BOSS 1:35 PANHARD EBR FL-10 IN THE BOX

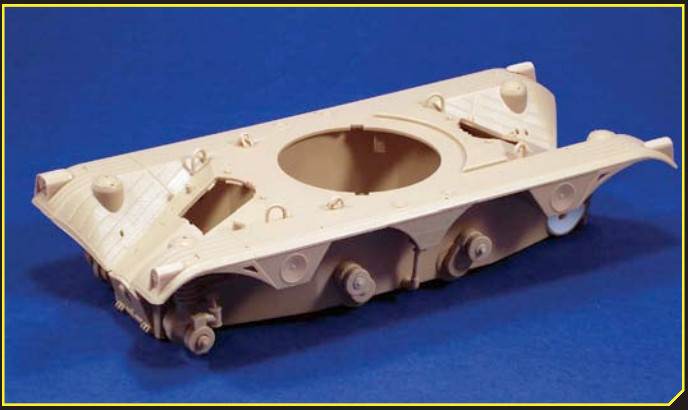
The recent 1:35 scale Panhard EBR FL-10 kit from Hobby Boss is a more than welcome kit. It is an original and a very interesting vehicle. The Panhard EBR FL-10 is not popular or widely known, but even so, Hobby Boss had the courage to release it in injected plastic and in the 1:35 scale. Good work Hobby Boss!

The kit is presented in a box with very attractive box art. Once opened, we are presented with several cream color plastic sprues, vinyl tyres, a small photo-etched fret and clear parts. My kit was a pre-production test-shot kit, so I cannot tell you about the decal quality or how many decal options are provided.

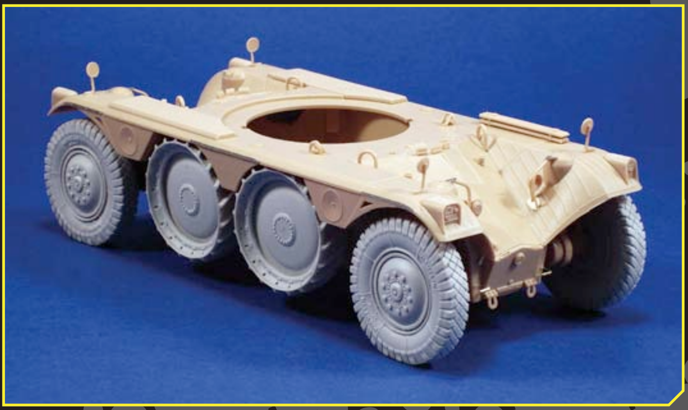
The instructions are clear and concise but even so, I detected a flaw. Be aware that the part C-5 should be placed in the opposite right side, instead the part A-14. Where you see the part C-5, it should be part A-14. When I detected that flaw, it was too late and my C-5 part was already glued in place.

Regardless, we are presented with a super nice kit. The plastic is top quality, with excellent surface detail and the PE small sheet will definitely improve the final appearance. In my opinion the vinyl tyres, despite displaying a high level of detail, are not ideal. I would prefer plastic tyres. Thankfully, Blast Models from France has released a resin set to replace them. That set was used in my model and I will get back to it more ahead.

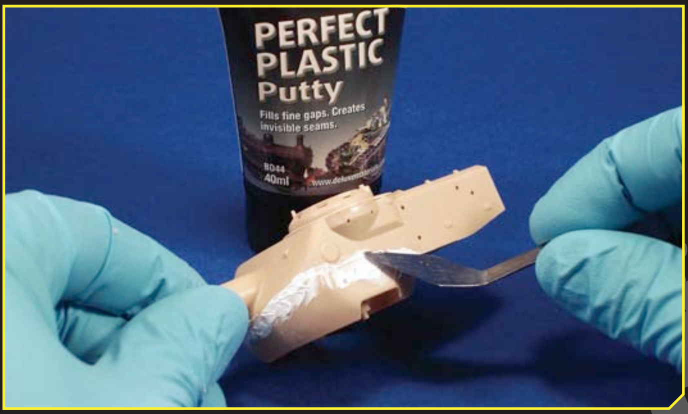
Construction



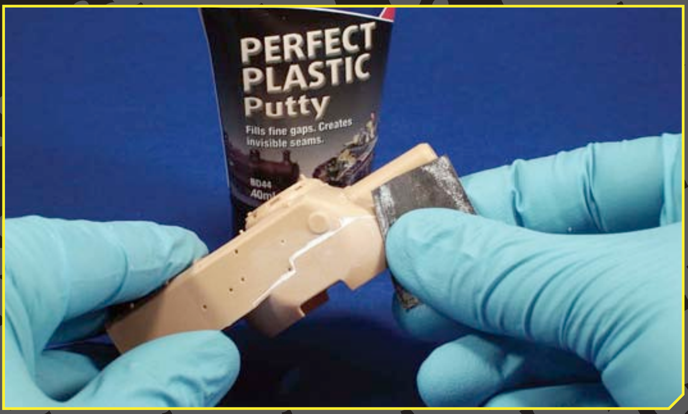
Construction is very straightforward. Soon after starting, our EBR model is already taking shape.



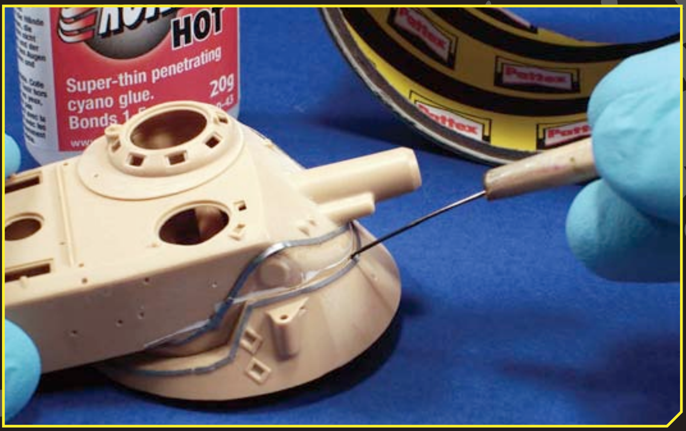
The resin casting of the Blast Models wheel set is top class. They also feature weighted effect.


PERFECT PLASTIC Putty
Fills fine gaps. Creates invisible seams.
BD44
40ml

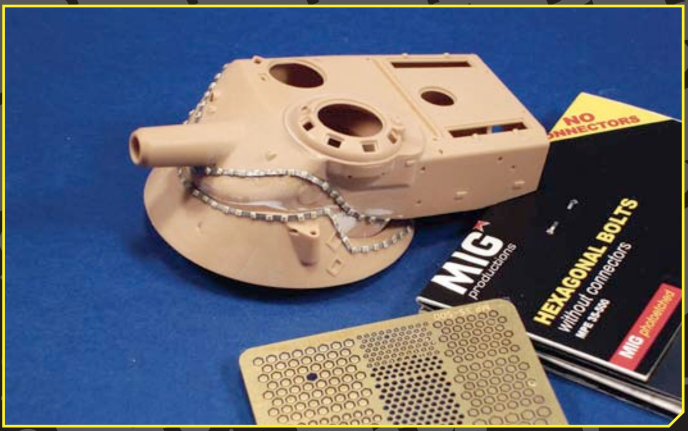
The turret is composed of several parts, the top and bottom parts being the most prominent. They are glued and the gap is filled in the new Perfect Plastic Putty from Deluxe Materials. This new putty is water soluble, dries fast and once dry is rock hard.


PERFECT PLASTIC Putty
Fills fine gaps. Creates invisible seams.

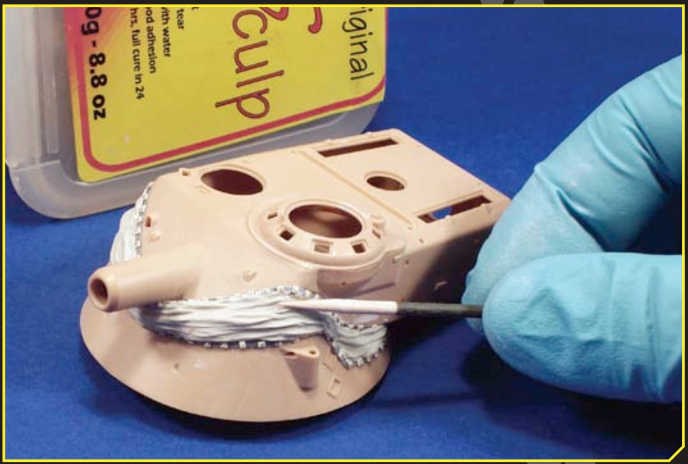
It can be easily sanded and the final touch is very smooth.


HOT
Super-thin penetrating cyano glue.
20g
Pattex

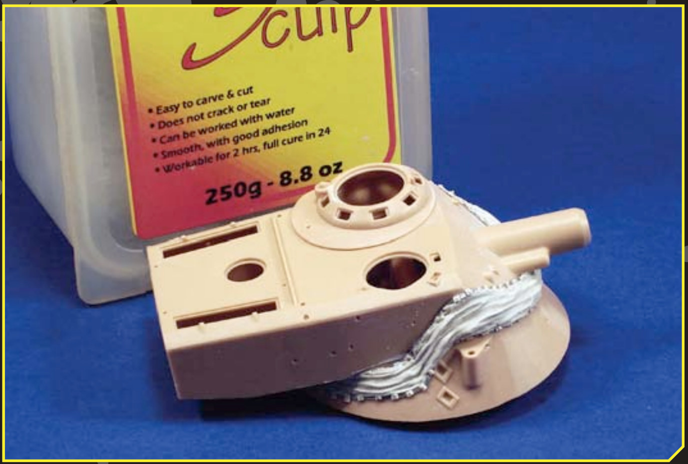
My pre-production test-shot kit did not include the turret folding. I had to scratch-build mine with the help of aluminium tape and Rocket Hot from Deluxe Materials. Being an ultra thin glue solution, it is ideal to work in the capillarity method.


NO CONNECTORS
MIG productions
HEXAGONAL BOLTS
without connectors
MPE 35-500
MIG photoetched

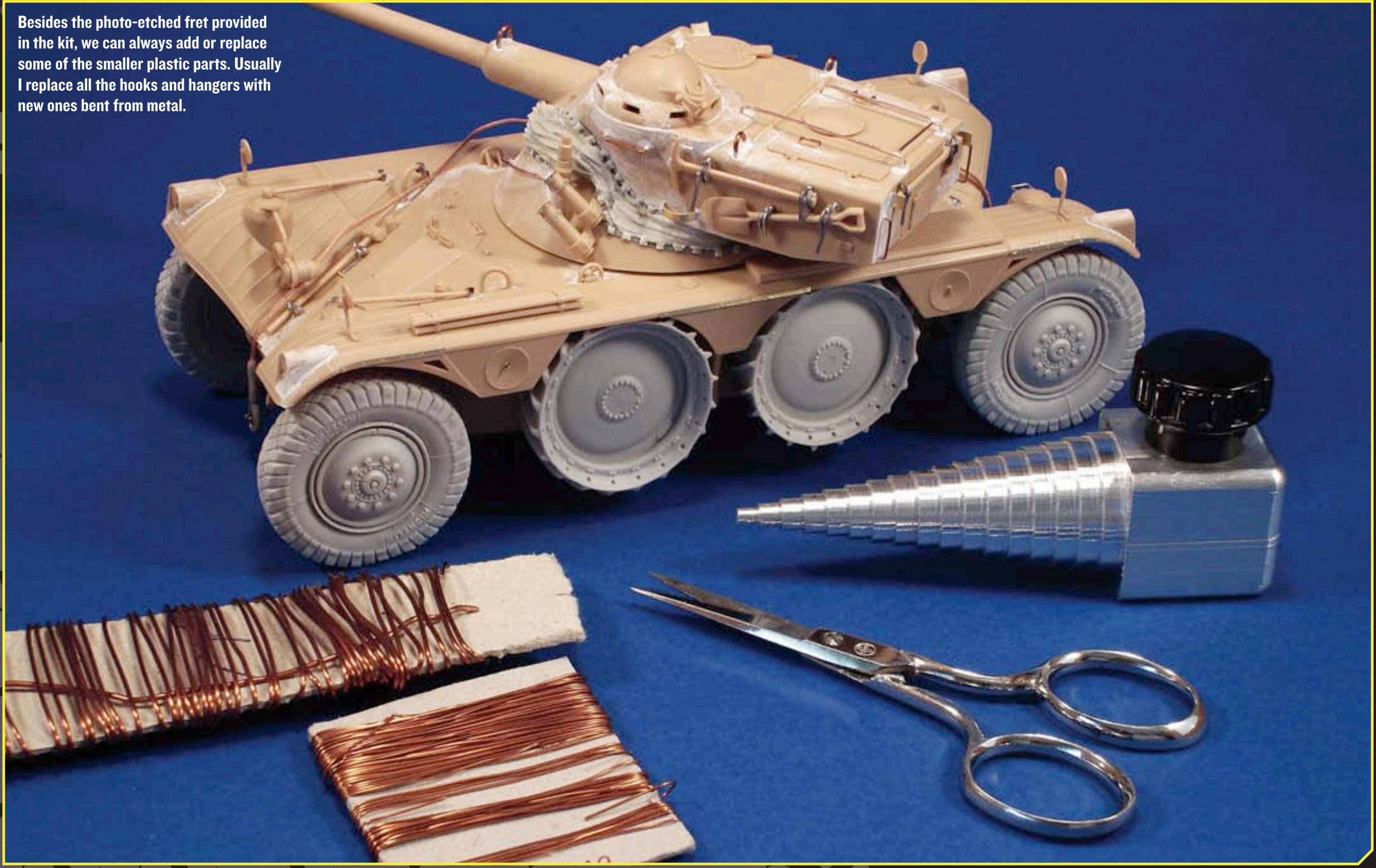
Several metallic bolts from MIG Productions set MPE-35-500 were glued in place. They will represent the folder fixings.



The folding itself was made from Magic Sculpt. As you can see in the pictures, this is a very prominent and noticeable part.


• Easy to carve & cut
• Does not crack or tear
• Can be worked with water
• Smooth, with good adhesion
• Workable for 2 hrs, full cure in 24
250g - 8.8 oz

My model was a pre-shot kit and did not provide that part.



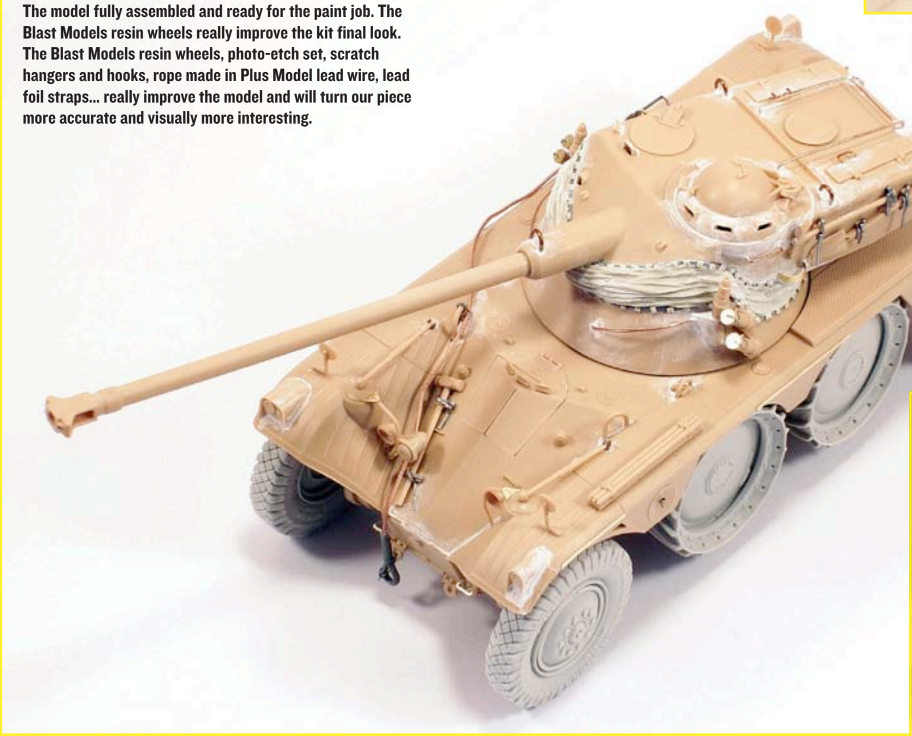
Besides the photo-etched fret provided in the kit, we can always add or replace some of the smaller plastic parts. Usually I replace all the hooks and hangers with new ones bent from metal.

To get the best shapes and results I usually use tools from Small Shop Tools.

We can make hundreds of these small parts, and always with the same shape and size.

Putty
Fills fine gaps. Creates invisible seams.
BD44
40ml
H₂O

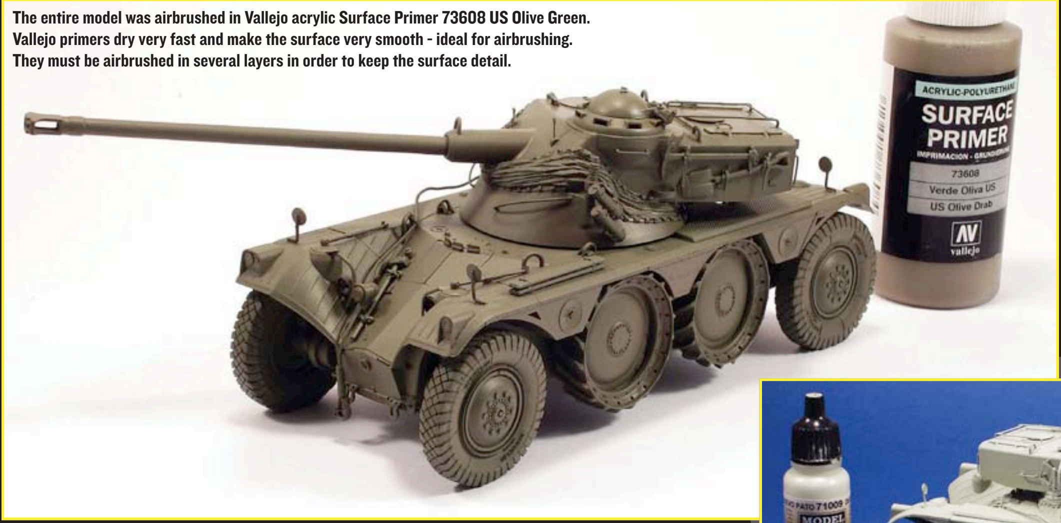
Once done, all we have to do is glue them in place and fill any small gaps with Perfect Plastic Putty from Deluxe Materials, thinned in water.



The model fully assembled and ready for the paint job. The Blast Models resin wheels really improve the kit final look. The Blast Models resin wheels, photo-etch set, scratch hangers and hooks, rope made in Plus Model lead wire, lead foil straps... really improve the model and will turn our piece more accurate and visually more interesting.

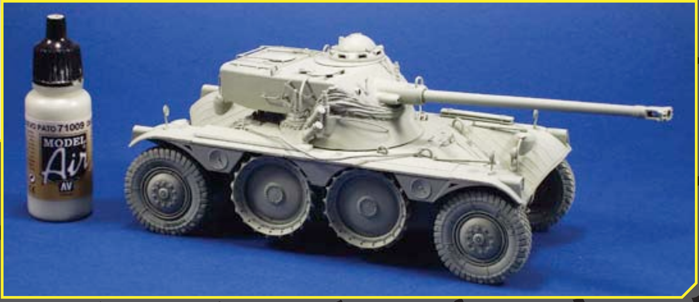
The metal cable from the Portuguese company RMG also looks very authentic with a very natural bending.

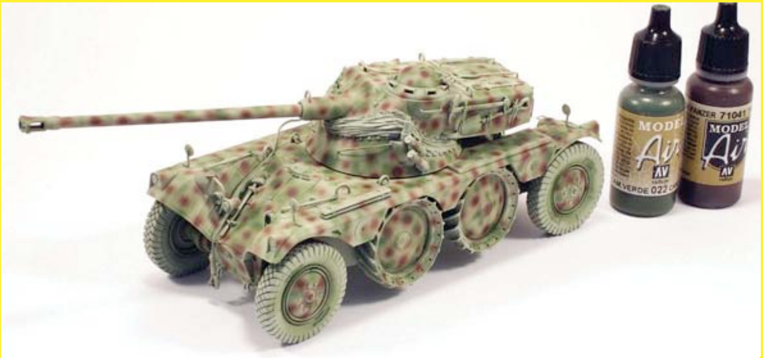
Painting


ACRYLIC-POLYURETHANE
SURFACE PRIMER
IMPRIMACION · GRUNDIERUNG
73608
Verde Oliva US
US Olive Drab
AV
vallejo

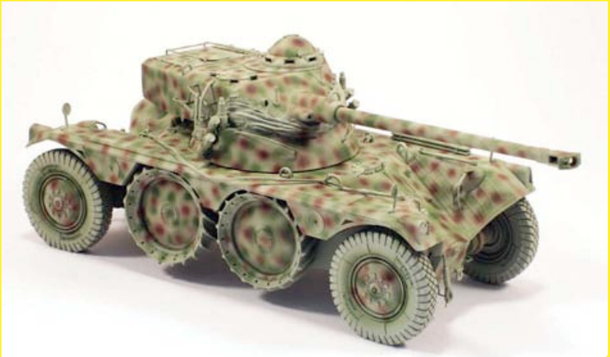
The entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo acrylic Surface Primer 73608 US Olive Green. Vallejo primers dry very fast and make the surface very smooth - ideal for airbrushing. They must be airbrushed in several layers in order to keep the surface detail.

Once the primer was completely dry, the entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71009 Duck Egg. Like the primer, it was airbrushed in several layers in order to keep the surface detail.

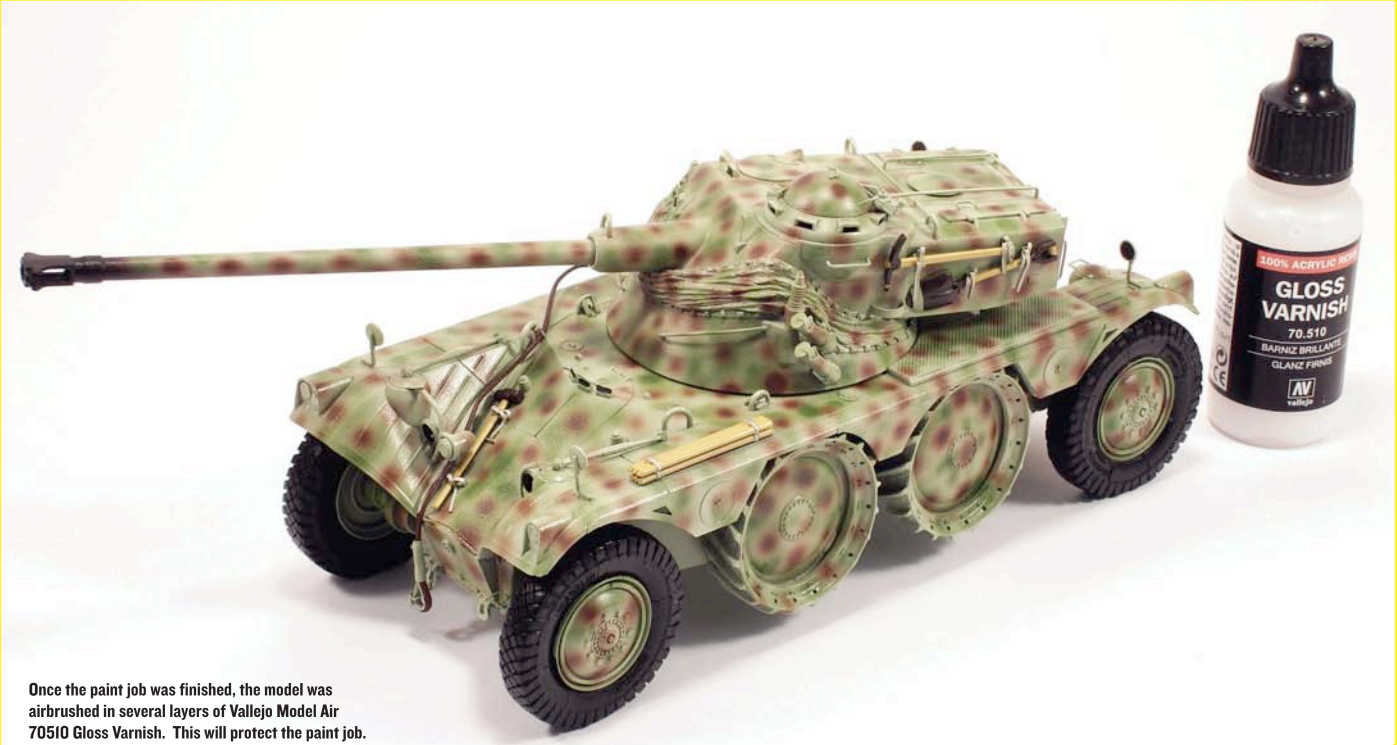




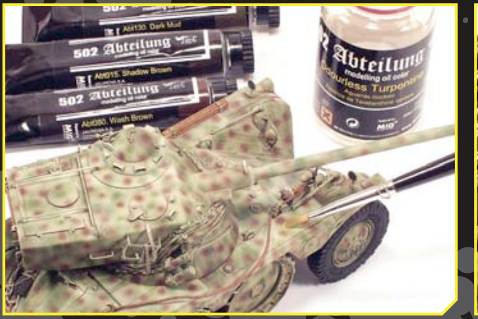
The Panhard EBR FL-10 was widely used by the Portuguese Army in the Angola war in the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s. Some of them had very cool camouflage schemes composed by several dark green and dark brown spots over a light green base. From the beginning, my idea was to reproduce one of those vehicles.



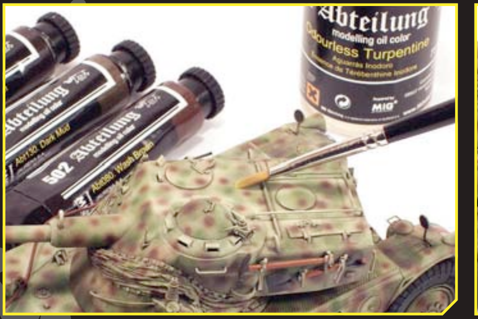
The dots were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71022 Camouflage Green and Vallejo Model Air 71041 Tank Brown.


100% ACRYLIC RESIN
GLOSS
VARNISH
70.510
BARNIZ BRILLANTE
GLANZ FIRNIS
AV
vallejo

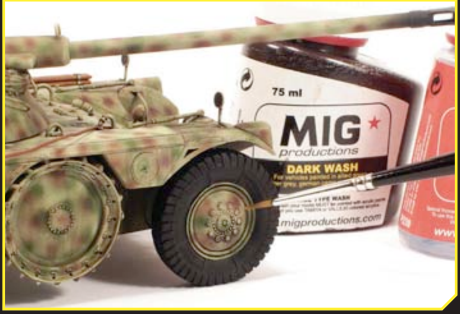
Once the paint job was finished, the model was airbrushed in several layers of Vallejo Model Air 70510 Gloss Varnish. This will protect the paint job.



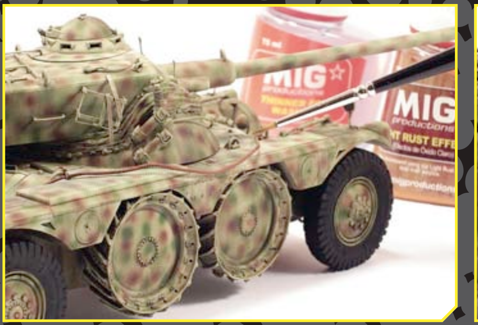
The weathering started by applying several heavily thinned layers of Mig Productions oils.



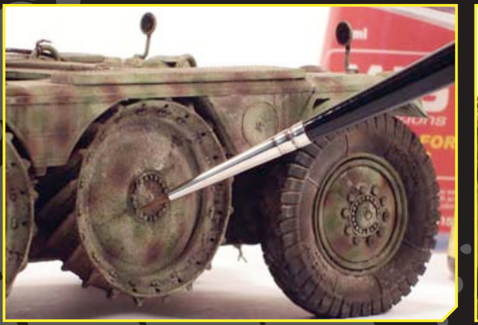
Besides several layers, we also should use different oil colours in order to obtain a more accurate and visually appealing finish.



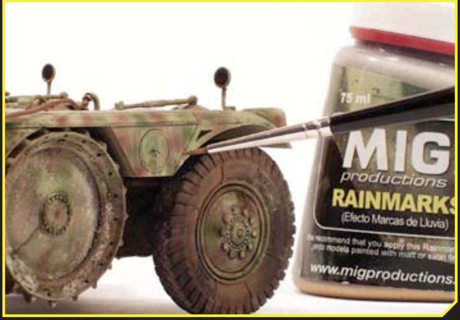
Small details were picked in Mig Productions Dark Wash applied mostly in the recessed areas and around small details. If necessary, Mig Productions wash solutions can be thinned in Mig Productions Thinner for Washes.



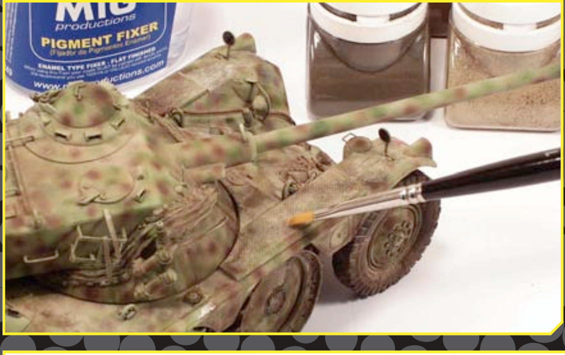
Several spots were treated with Mig Productions Standard Rust Effects and Light Rust Effects. Once again, these were thinned using Mig Productions Thinner for Washes.



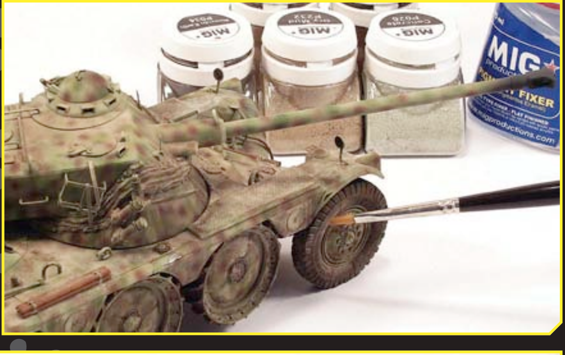
Mig Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture was applied in several spots. All these simple techniques combined really improve the model and make it look much more realistic.



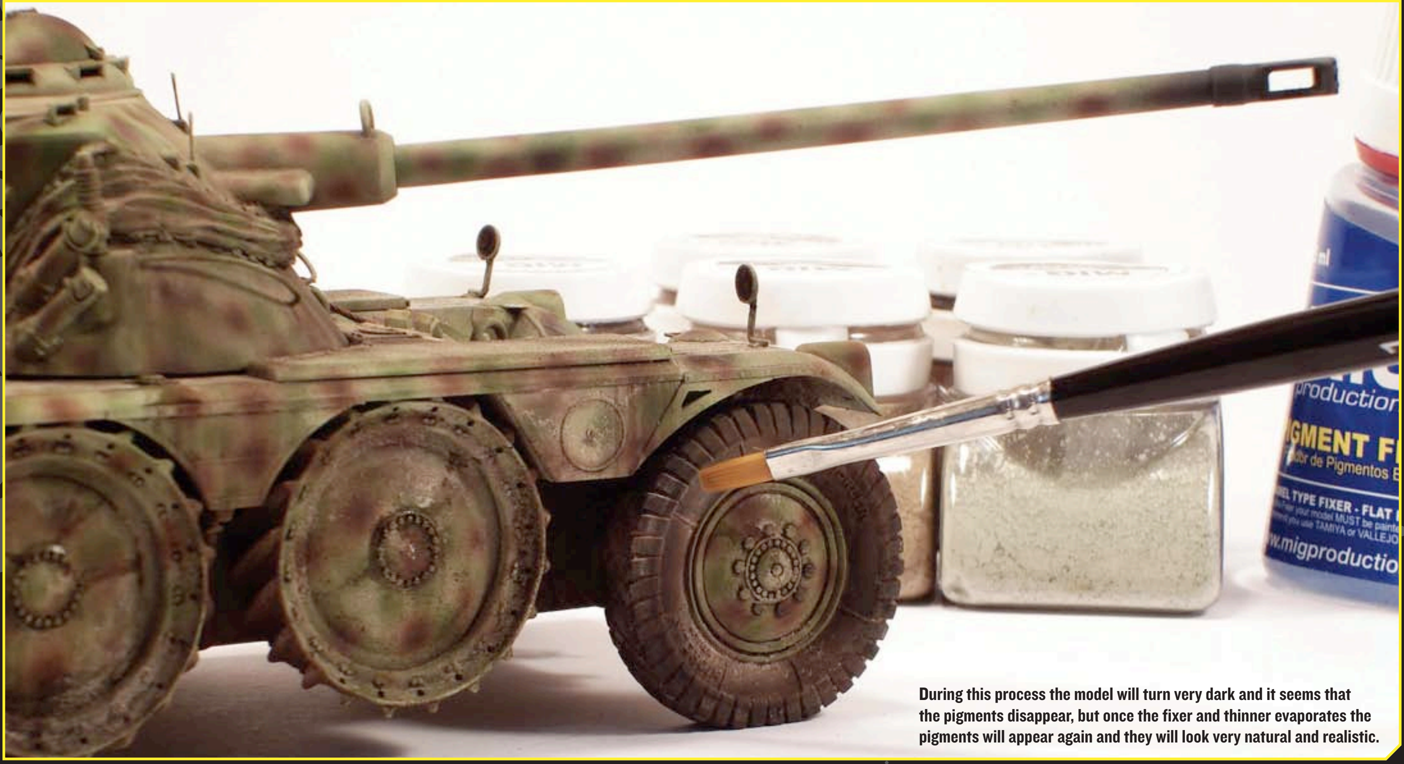
Mig Productions Rainmarks were also applied. Mig Productions catalogue is huge and ideal for all kind of weathering and detail work.



The dusty look was achieved with Mig Productions' pigments. Several colours must be used in order to achieve a more realistic look. In the meantime we must take some care. The colours must be accurate and in the right spots. We must also not overdo this process otherwise our model will look inaccurate and unrealistic.



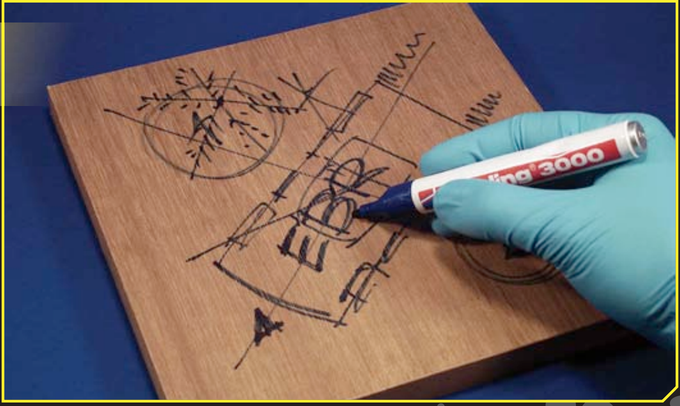
The pigments were fixed in place with the help of Mig Productions Pigment Fixer. All we have to do is apply, by brush, several drops over the pigments and let to dry untouchable.



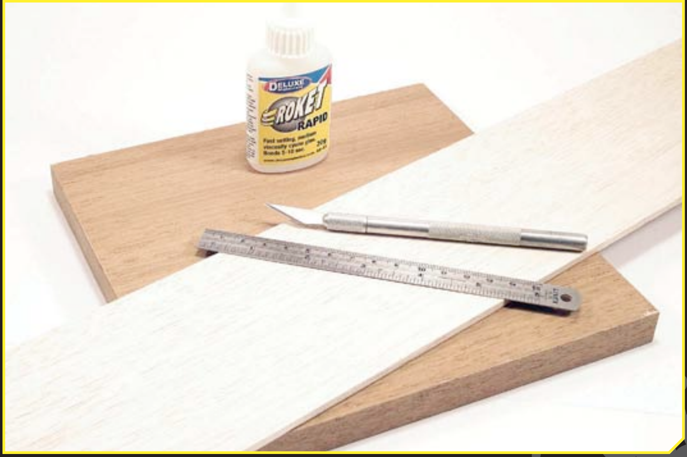
During this process the model will turn very dark and it seems that the pigments disappear, but once the fixer and thinner evaporates the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.

Base and Diorama

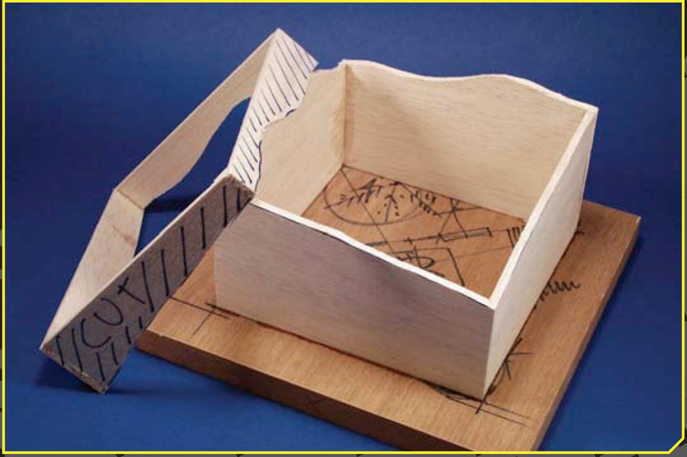
All my projects start with several sketches. This step is very important because it will define the composition and the place of all the elements. The elements must be placed in a dynamic way and according invisible diagonal lines. We must avoid at all cost placing elements parallel to the sides of the base.



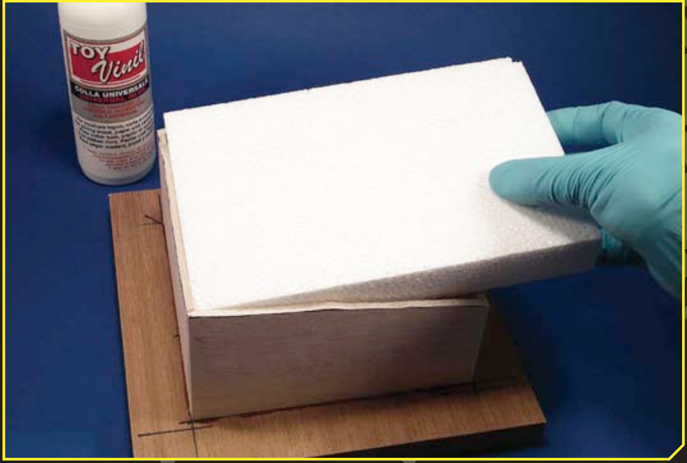
The idea and the sketch were transferred to the base. We must spend as much time as necessary on this step. This will define the final look of the entire scene.



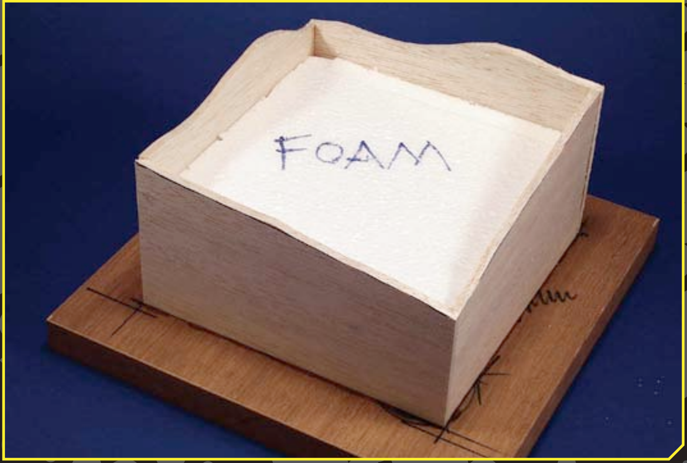
As usual, I used a wood base and made the sidewalls from balsa wood. This formed a box and the volume adds an extra touch of interest to the base and piece.



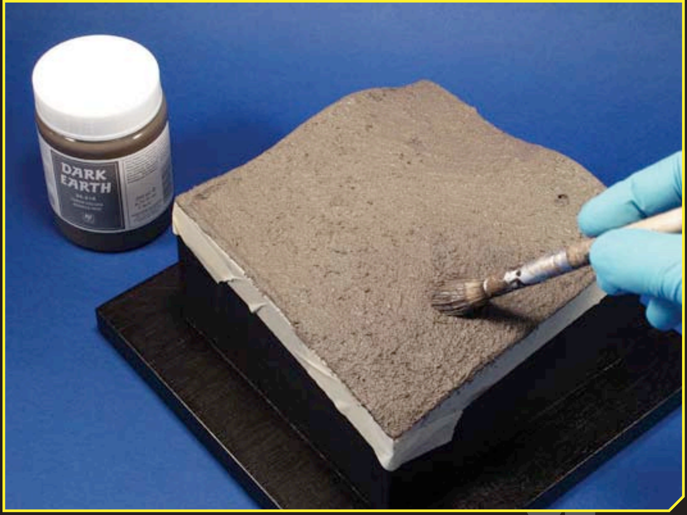
At this point we can define all kind of reliefs. Balsa wood is very easy to work and cut. All we have to do is mark the parts to remove and then gently remove them with the help of a scalpel.



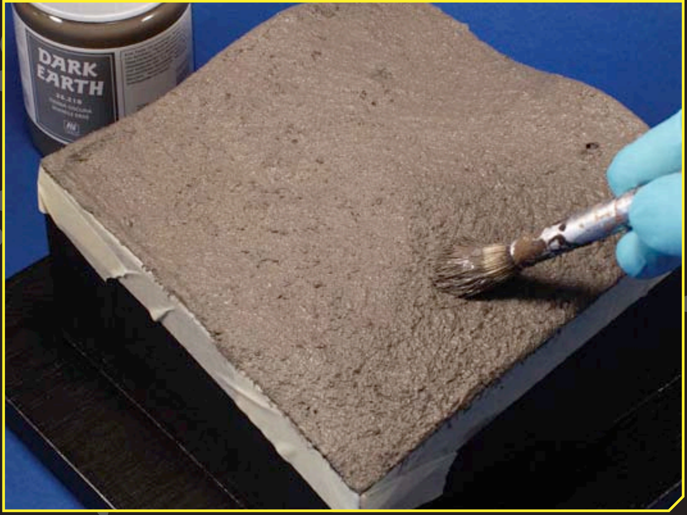
The interior was filled with regular foam and florist's foam. The foam is cheap, easy to find and easy to work. It is also lightweight and ideal to fill big volumes.



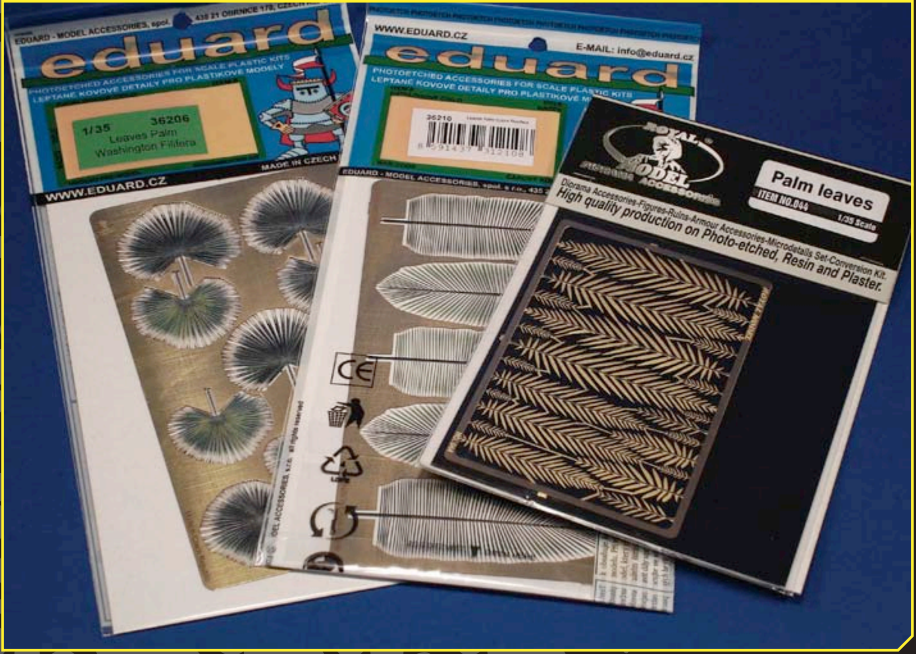
Several layers of white glue were applied in order to give an extreme bond and protect the foam.



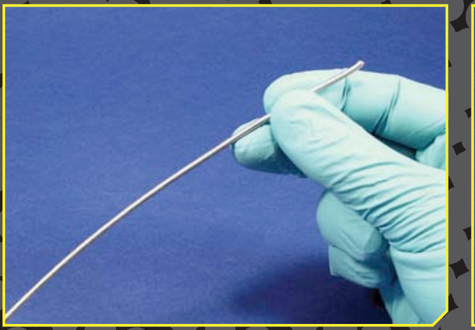
All the terrain parts are covered in Vallejo Dark Earth 26218 paste. Vallejo pastes are a coloured, slightly gritty compound of acrylic resin, pigment and micro particles.



Applied with a brush or spatula, the product is easily shaped to render a sandy beach, desert dunes, churned up mud terrain of all kinds of conditions. It may be also used for rust and weathered metal textures. It dries in about 30-45 minutes and the brushes or spatulas can be cleaned with water. The pastes may be mixed with all Vallejo products to achieve all kinds of finish.

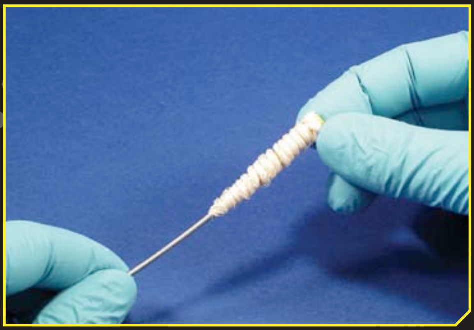


I wanted to place palm trees in my diorama. Besides the palm leaves, all the rest was made from scratch.



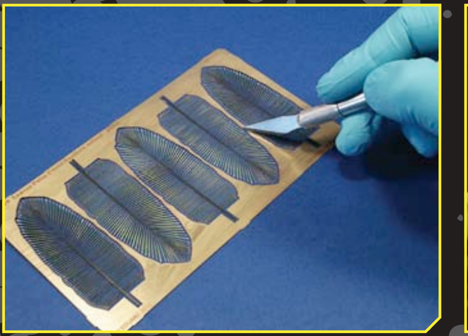
For the trunk I used several metal wires bent into the desired shape.

I glued a small plastic tube into one of the ends. This will hold the palm leaves.

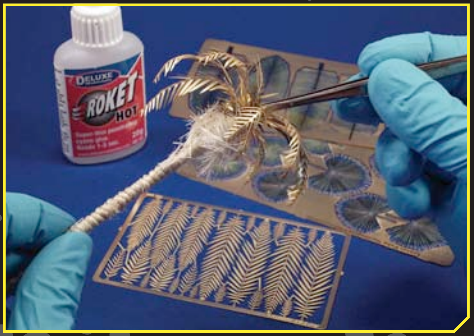


The wire was wrapped in string. Note how the plastic tube ended hidden under the rope. The string is perfect to represent the palm tree trunk texture.

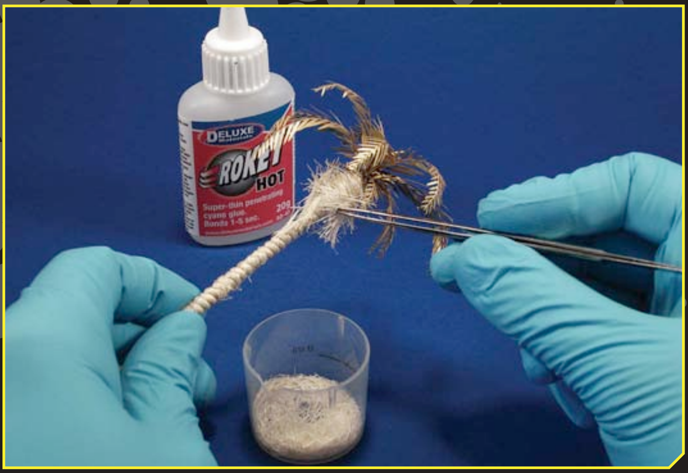
Several photo-etch sets from Royal Model and Eduard were used to represent the palm leaves and some other surrounding vegetation. Both companies offer lovely foliage, and Eduard's sets are pre-painted.



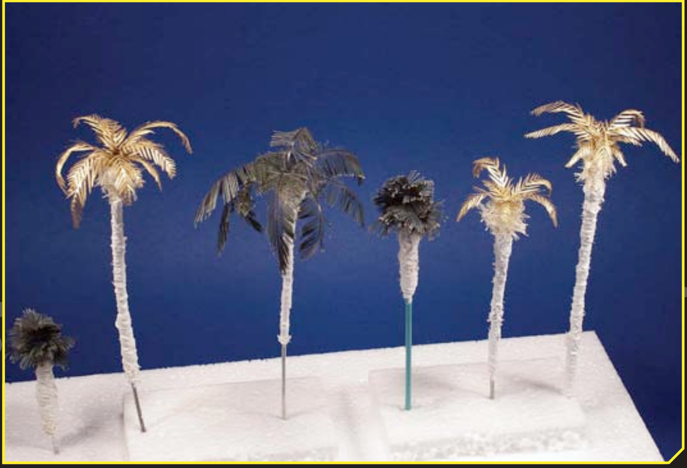
The palm leaves were gently cut from the frets and soon they are ready to be glued into the trunk.



The palm leaves were inserted and glued into the plastic tube. For this task I used Rocket Hot from Deluxe Materials. Being an ultra thin glue solution, it is ideal to work in the capillarity method. At this point we can already bend the palm leaves into the desired shape.



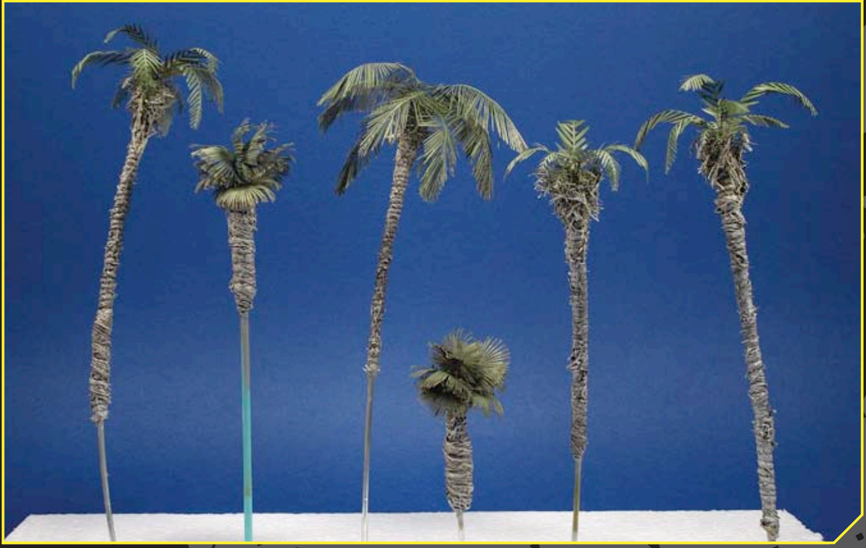
More details were added using small portions of string. Studying several pictures about palm trees is essential for an accurate finish.



The trunks were covered in Perfect Plastic Putty from Deluxe Materials very well thinned in water. This will soften the rope look and once dry it looks like real palm tree trunk texture.

The trunks were painted grey and then received several dry brush layers in Vallejo Model Color 70928 Light Flesh and 70990 Light Grey.

Once completely dry, they also received several washes of Mig Productions Wood Ageing Solution.

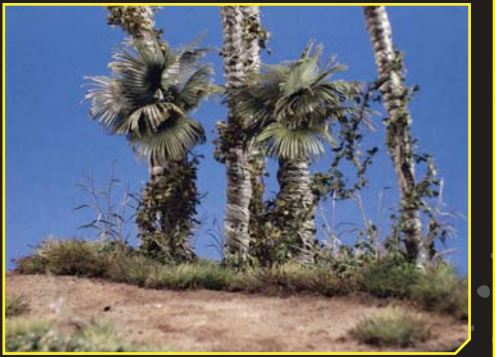


All the products and techniques combined to make very interesting and accurate palm trees.

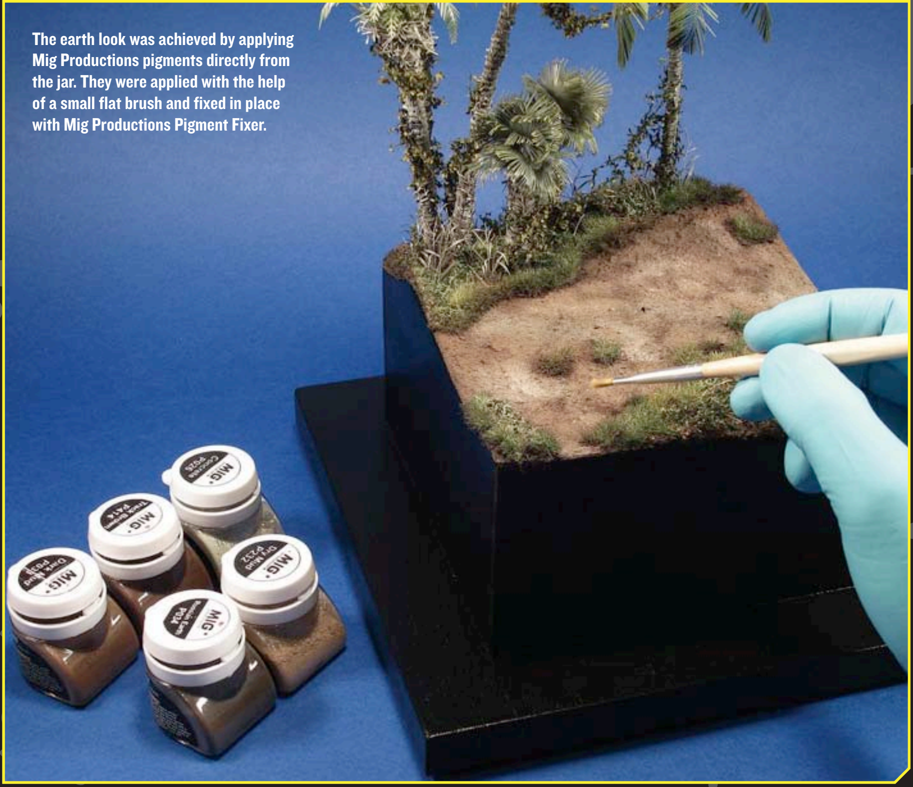
For the ground and surrounding vegetation, several items from Model Scene and MiniNatur were used. Both companies have huge catalogues and their products are beyond awesome. They are very natural and accurate.

We really must observe our surrounding world and every time we see some interesting spot we must make a picture of it. In this way we can make our own data base that will be very useful every time we make a diorama. Being a diorama builder, I am always paying attention to the nature, decaying buildings etc… When we observe the world, we can make better dioramas.

In this particular project I did not needed to go to the jungle. Thankfully we have the Internet to conduct our research!

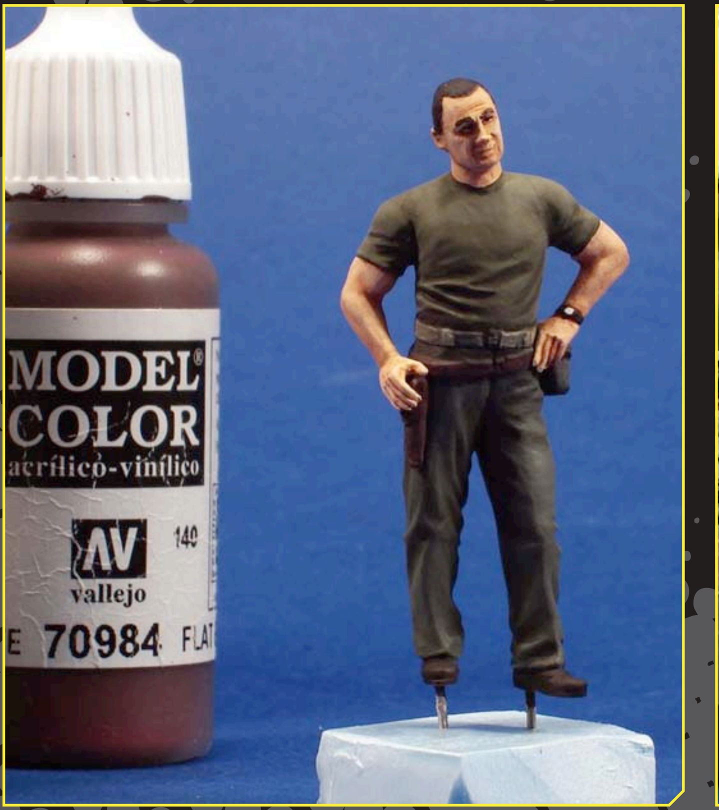


Look how the combined products from Royal Model, Eduard, Model Scene and MiniNatur allow making a very natural environment.

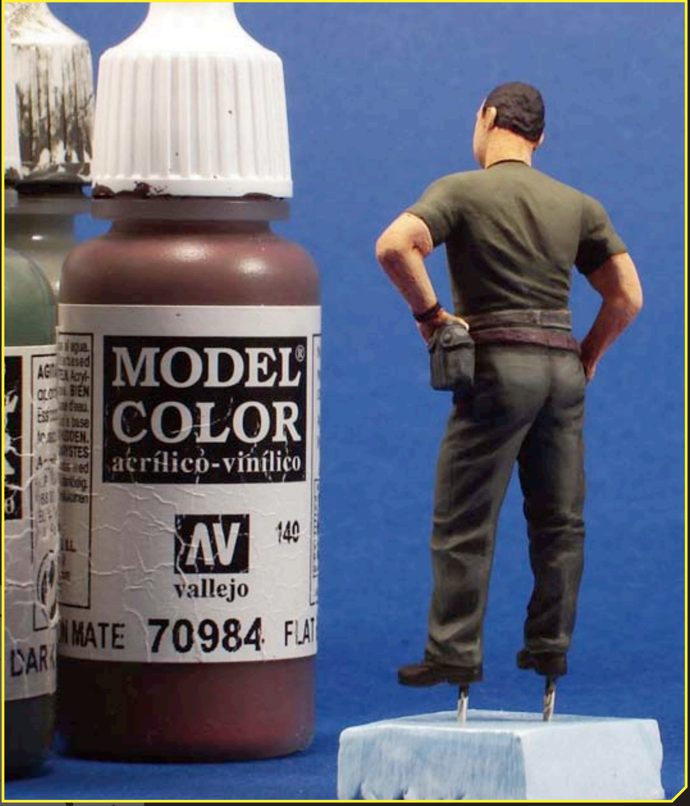


The earth look was achieved by applying Mig Productions pigments directly from the jar. They were applied with the help of a small flat brush and fixed in place with Mig Productions Pigment Fixer.

Figures



I always place figures in my dioramas. Even a single figure can add the human factor, a sense of scale and tell a story. This project was no exception.



The figure came from a Master Box item. The set is Allied Forces, WW2 Era, North Africa Desert Battle Series, Item No. MB3594. The figure was painted in my usual fashion; oil colours for the flesh areas and Vallejo Model Color for clothes, accessories, guns...

Conclusion

This was a very enjoyable project. The Hobby Boss kit is a more than welcome subject and can be transformed into a very good replica.

As you may see in my article, the kit does not provide the turret folding and this is a major omission. But as I said, my kit was a test-shot.

In my opinion the vinyl tires (including the four central wheels) are not a good option. But this is just my opinion. Thankfully Blast Models offers a resin set to replace these.

I know that for many modellers this not a real problem and let me tell you that the vinyl tires provided in the kit offer great detail. But I'm not a big fan of vinyl, at least for model making!

In conclusion, this kit is highly recommended to all modellers interested in unusual and different subjects.

I also want to offer my congratulations to Hobby Boss for releasing this 1:35 kit in injected plastic. It was a brave move! ■

ME
1690

ME·16·90

> **"This kit is highly recommended to all modellers interested in unusual and different subjects..."**

Modelspec

HobbyBoss 1:35 French EBR-10 Wheeled Reconnaissance Vehicle **Kit No. 82489**

Items Used

1:35 Blast Models, Wheels set for EBR FL10/11, Item 35182K
1:35 MIG Productions, Hexagonal bolts without connectors, Item MPE 35-500
1:35 Master Box, Allied forces, WW2 Era, North Africa desert battle series, Item MB3594
1:35 Royal Model, PE Palm leaves, Item 044
1:35 Eduard PE, Leaves palm Cocos Nucifera, Item 36210
1:35 Eduard PE, Leaves palm Washington Filifera, Item 36210
1:35 Eduard PE, Rushes, Item 36167
1:35 Eduard PE, Rushes II, Item 36169
MiniNatur diorama products
Model Scene diorama products

Materials and Paints Used

Hood glue, Deluxe Materials glue solutions, Florist foam, Wood base, Injected plastic, Resin parts, Plastic card, Metal parts, Vallejo primers and acrylics, MIG Productions pigments, oils, washes, filters and thinners, Graphite soft pencil, Aguaplast - Robbialac, Fine sand, Magic Sculp

References:

Several internet sites and forums

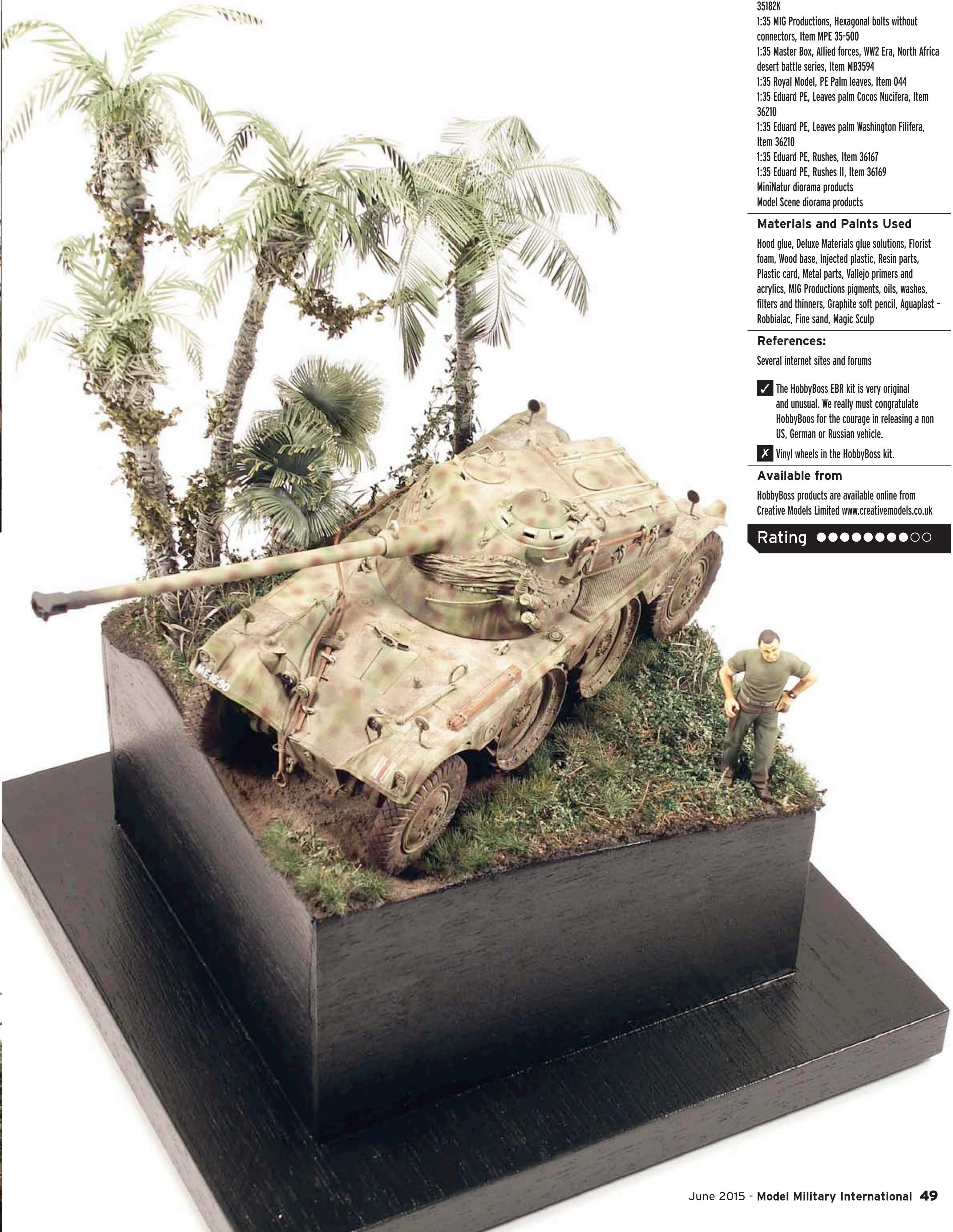
✓ The HobbyBoss EBR kit is very original and unusual. We really must congratulate HobbyBoos for the courage in releasing a non US, German or Russian vehicle.

✗ Vinyl wheels in the HobbyBoss kit.

Available from

HobbyBoss products are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



NOISY LEADERSHIP

Takahiro Sumitomo presents two 1:35 scale cargo vehicles in a busy diorama.

We've all had that annoying boss, haven't we? In this scene, an annoying German officer is yelling at his troops to pick up the scattered cargo.

The two vehicles are Vulcan's 1:35 scale STZ-5 & MiniArt's 1:35 L1500S.

The landscape was carved from cork to represent textured stone. This proved to be a nice easy material to cut into shape. Plaster was used to texture the cork base.

The figures feature Hornet heads.

Gaianotes paints were used on the vehicles.

MIG Productions' 502 Abteilung series Brown Wash has been applied over the top of the paint.

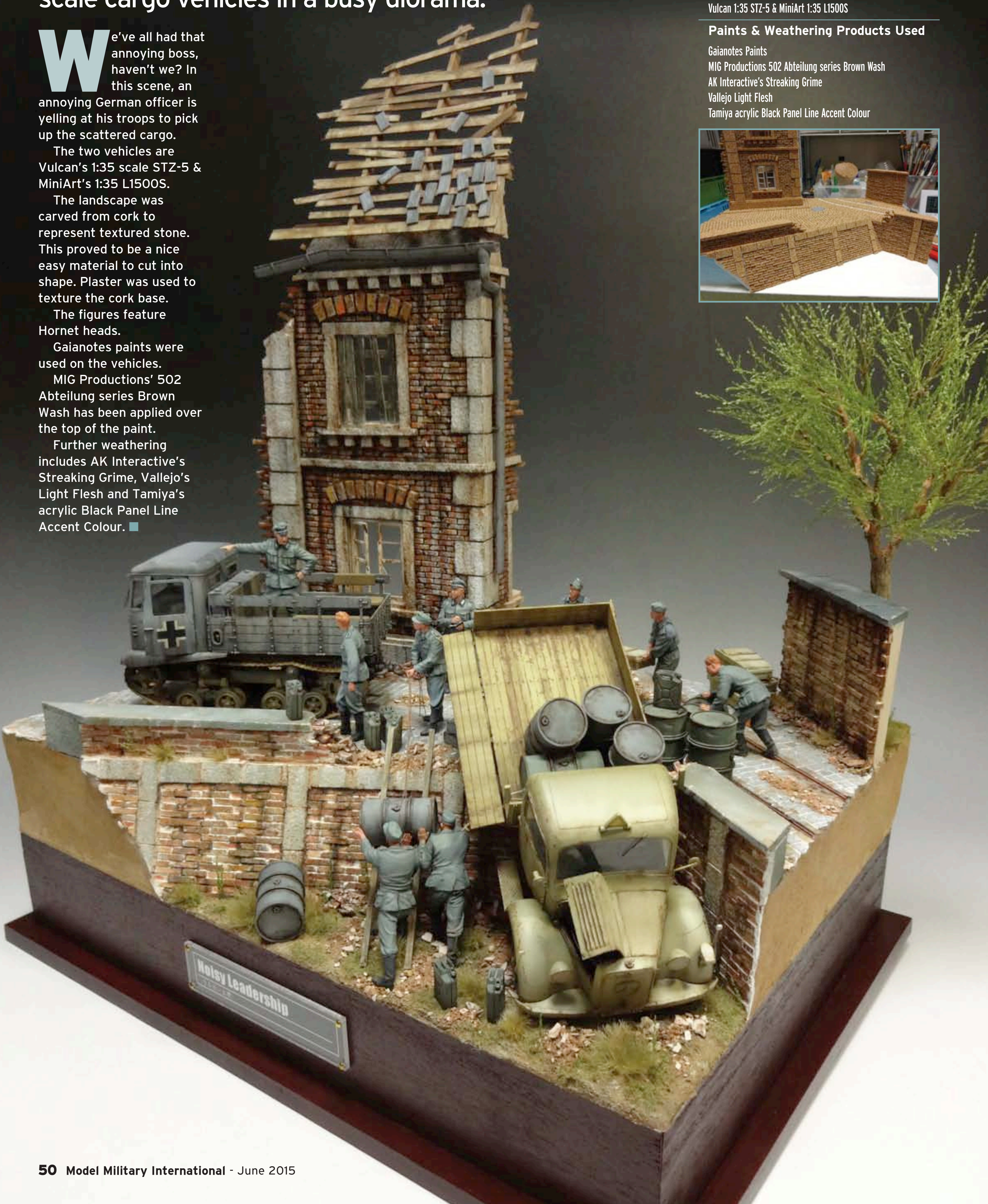
Further weathering includes AK Interactive's Streaking Grime, Vallejo's Light Flesh and Tamiya's acrylic Black Panel Line Accent Colour. ■

Mini Modelspec

Vulcan 1:35 STZ-5 & MiniArt 1:35 L1500S

Paints & Weathering Products Used

Gaianotes Paints
MIG Productions 502 Abteilung series Brown Wash
AK Interactive's Streaking Grime
Vallejo Light Flesh
Tamiya acrylic Black Panel Line Accent Colour



QUICKER FIGURES

Five Easy Steps for Painting Small Scale Figures for Dioramas by **Rafe Morrissey**

Figures are a great way to add a sense of scale and context to a model. Unfortunately, the techniques involved in building and painting figures at a high level are not really analogous to those needed for building inanimate objects like tanks and airplanes. Most modelers I know do what I did for many years- chuck the figures in the spares bin thinking, "Someday."

Several years ago, I made an effort to learn how to paint figures and while not winning any awards, developed a technique that suited me. The only problem was the time involved. As a rule of thumb, it was taking a full evening to complete a 1:72 scale figure, two evenings for a 1:48 one, and for 1:32 and 1:35 figures as many as three nights, just for one figure. The time involved kept me from working on a number of diorama ideas I'd dreamed about. For a B-17 crew or German 88mm Flak gun, it might take as many as three weeks just for the figures!

I decided there had to be a better way, and I think there is. After combing a number of books, I have distilled a method that has cut the time involved in doing figures in half, plus it can be used in a mass production system if the uniforms are similar to make it go even faster. What was taking me three nights can now be done in a couple of hours.

A couple points up front: I do not intend to offend those modellers dedicated to the art of figure painting, and I do believe it is an art. I freely admit that this method from a certain perspective is "cheating." If you intend to enter a figure painting competition, I do not advise you to follow this method. If on the other hand, you would like to turn out a respectable looking figure to accompany a plane or tank and not have to take a long time, read on.

Second, I do not claim to invent these techniques. I gleaned them from a number of good books but none seemed to focus as specifically on the figure painting as I think would be helpful. My hope is to pull together the basics into 5 easy steps in one article so that you can have a good one-stop reference.

BACK TO BASICS

The focus of this article is on painting, so I am not going to talk much about construction other than to say that, just like in any type of modelling, it is important to adhere to good fundamental construction techniques. Scrape away all seam lines and ensure proper fit. A couple of specific tips are worth mentioning though.

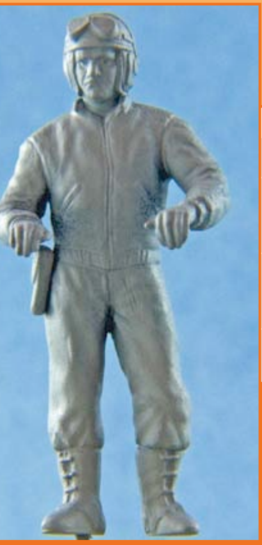
Filling seams on figures can be tricky. The complex detail is often hard to sand around without damaging it. Mr. Surfacer 500 is a great solution. You can apply it to the seams where arms join the torso. Slightly overfill since it will shrink. Once it has dried, you can remove it with a Q-tip soaked in Mr. Color Thinner. Slowly rub across the seam and the filler will gradually come away. In this manner you can work the filler down until it is level with the surface and no sanding is required. Another good filler option is Perfect Plastic Putty from Deluxe Materials. This goes on like spackle and can be removed with a Q-tip moistened with water. I use it for sink marks. Again, it can be removed without sanding. It also sticks like mad when cured and can be dry sanded and polished. I use it for areas that are easy to get to with sandpaper. You must sand it with dry sandpaper, though. Wet sanding will reactivate the putty and just wash it away.

Finally, for 1:35 and 1:32 scale figures, use a sharp pin or needle to poke holes where the irises in the eyes should be. Wash will settle into them and create the illusion of a carefully painted eye.

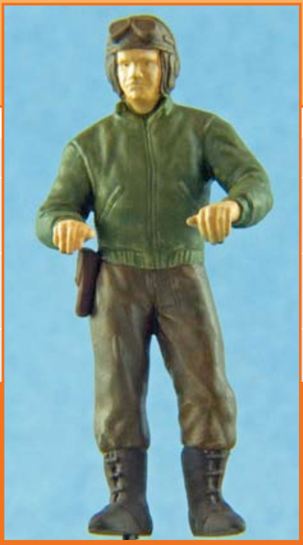
No technique can make up for poor construction. Be sure to eliminate all mould parting lines and fill any seams between body parts. Mr. Surfacer 500 is a great filler because it can be removed without sanding with Mr. Color Thinner on a damp Q-tip. For large scale figures, try using a pin to make tiny holes for the irises in the eyes.

Mr.SURFACER
TESTORS
SPRAY LACQUER
PERFECT PLASTIC Putty
Mr. SURFACER 500

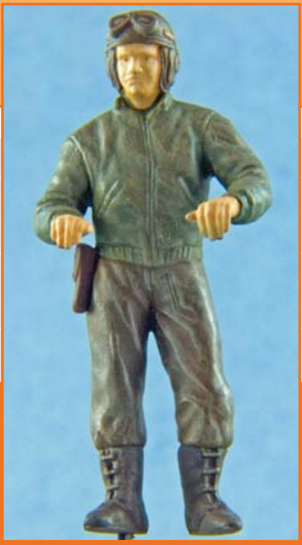
Here is an assortment of finishing products that work well for me. I try to stick with Vallejo paints for the base colours and Testors enamels for dry brushing.



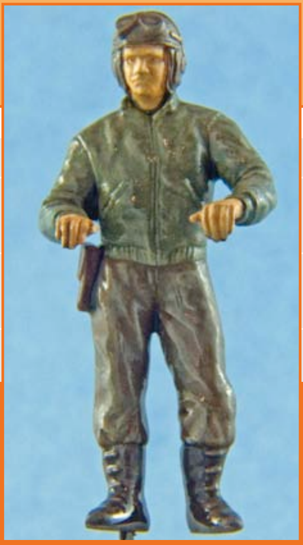
Prime the figure with a good quality primer from a spray can. Fix any defects at this stage and re-prime, if necessary.



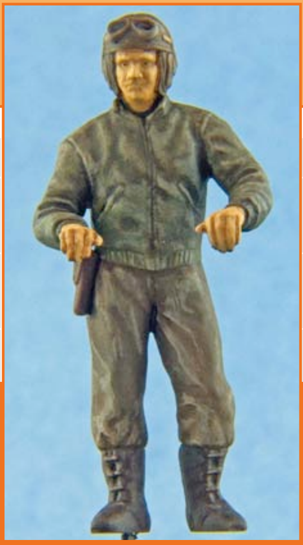
Apply the flesh tones and basic colours for the uniform. Highlight the areas of the face and hands exposed to light with a paler flesh tone. Do not paint any straps or details at this stage. If your paint has the slightest sheen, give the figure a good coat of Testors Dullcote.



Dry brush each uniform colour with an appropriate highlight colour. Use enamels or add retarder to acrylics to extend the working time.



Apply a thin wash of Raw Umber oil paint thinned with odourless mineral spirits like Turpenoid in the blue can. Once the wash is dry you can use a damp brush with thinner to blend out any areas where too much wash settled or add a bit thicker wash for areas that need deeper shadows, but it will look pretty good after the first application.



Coat the figure with Testors Dullcote. If there are any areas that need to be shiny like lenses on glasses or goggles, use a bit of Future to make them

STEP 1: PRIME

The first task is to drill a hole in the bottom of the foot so you can insert a toothpick to hold the figure. Next, apply a good primer. I like Mr. Surfacer 500 in the spray can but any aerosol primer will do. I use spray cans here for speed. No mixing in thinners and cleaning up an airbrush. Inspect the figure and make sure all the seams are completely filled and mould parting lines eliminated. This is the best time to fix any lingering problems.

STEP 2: BASE COAT

Next apply the base colours to the figure. For flesh areas, I use Vallejo Basic Skin Tone with a bit of Yellow Tan mixed in, but any base flesh colour will do. Then I add white to the mix and hit the areas of the face and hands most exposed to light. The eyebrows, tops of cheeks, chin, bridge of the nose, knuckles and top edges of hands and fingers all get the lighter shade. The differences should be fairly pronounced. Don't worry about blending. The differences in tone will be dealt with in a later step. Also paint the major garments like pants, shirts and jackets and shoes or boots. Do not paint any details at this stage. Use a somewhat darker colour than what the base colour should be. If you can't find the right shade on the paint rack, you can always mix in a bit of dark brown. I recommend using Vallejo paints here because they dry dead flat. If you use Acryl or Polly Scale, you will want to spray the figure with Testors Dullcote to ensure the next step works well.

STEP 3: DRY-BRUSH

Dry-brushing figures is considered blasphemy by hard-core figure painters but it is the only way to shorten the process. I don't claim the figures will look as good as a professionally painted figure with all the tones and blending, but for me, it looks good enough. One trick is to dry brush down into the figure the way the light would hit the detail and not simply scrub across it. Your brush strokes should mimic the path of the light. This will ensure that the lighter tones are deposited in the right places. This is also why we didn't paint any details in the previous step. It gives you more room to dry brush.

You want to select a complementary light tone for each base colour. For tan pants and flight suits, Radome Tan is a good choice. For Olive Drab uniforms, Afrika Dunkelgrau works well. Military Brown is a good highlight for leather flight jackets. Be sure to choose something that will provide a good amount of contrast.

I recommend Testors enamel paints because dry brushing is easier with enamels since they dry slower than acrylics. If you must use acrylics, add some retarder to give yourself a bit more working time.

STEP 4: DETAIL & WASH

Next, go in and paint any required details like insignia, fleece trim and belts and harnesses. You can carefully dry brush these with a small brush. Avoid using either pure white or black on your figures. I mix in a bit of Tan Yellow in white and a tad of white in black for scale effect.

When all the detail painting is complete, mix up a wash of Raw Umber oil paint and odourless mineral spirits such as Turpenoid in the blue can. The wash should be fairly thin. If you run the wash down a piece of paper with print on it, the print should be visible through the wash. Apply the wash to the entire figure, details and flesh areas alike. Raw Umber has a remarkable unifying effect and helps blend all the different tones and details.

STEP 5: FLAT COAT & ADMIRE

Once the wash has completely dried, you can work out any areas where too much wash settled with a brush dampened with the odourless mineral spirits. You can also add a bit more wash mixed a bit darker to accentuate any areas where there should be deep shadows, but the figure will usually look pretty good after the first application. Once the washes are completely dry, spray the figure with Testors Dullcote. As a final step you can add some Future to any areas that should be glossy like sun glasses or goggles.

CONCLUSION

Give this process a try with your next figure. You will be amazed at how quickly it goes and how good the figures can look with minimal effort. The five steps described above can be done in 45 minutes to a couple hours maximum depending on the scale of the figures. If you are doing figures that are dressed similarly, set up an assembly line and do each step on all the figures in succession. The extra time is negligible in most cases and you can churn out quite a few in an evening. You might just find yourself headed back to your spares box to paint up all those figures you've been setting aside all these years! ■

Modelspec

Key Products Used:

- Mr. Surfacer 500 in bottle and spray can
- Mr. Color Thinner
- Perfect Plastic Putty
- Testors Dullcote
- Various Vallejo and Testors Colors

ITALERI

1:35 SCALE
'WORLD OF TANKS' FERDINAND
KIT NO. 36501

WORLD OF TANKS
ROLL OUT
From the online video game phenomenon
FERDINAND MODEL KIT 1:35
ITALERI
Nº 36501

Back in 'The Day', Italeri's Elefant was The Bees Knees. It was, and still is, one of Italeri's better tank kits and has now been given a new lease of life thanks to World of Tanks.

This kit is little changed from when it first came out in the mid 1970s. We have 205 pieces spread over three sprues, including two runs of flexible plastic tracks with spares. To get a Ferdinand, Italeri has included a newly tooled bow plate omitting the machine gun. Moulding quality is generally good with just the tiniest amount of flash present. Detail is well done, if a little heavy, but it stands up well considering its age. The tracks are actually quite nicely done but the material used is inflexible. The idea is that two lengths form one track run and you fix them together by melting little plastic pins together. This brings back memories of the good old days with a screwdriver held over a candle flame…

ASSEMBLY

Most of the parts are given over to the suspension and this is where the bulk of construction time will be spent. The hull tub and superstructure are molded in one piece which has the benefit of speeding up construction time and ensuring that everything is straight and true first time. There are only four steps to the instructions, meaning that this is a really easy build.

Because this is World of Tanks, any painting scheme goes and the instructions show a three-tone summer & desert scheme as well as a winter one. The same generic markings as came with the Tiger & Chaffee kits previously reviewed are included.

If you play the game, then there are some bonus codes included that give you a garage slot and a 105leFH18B2 French Tier 5 premium self-propelled gun, whatever that is!

Hidden away in the instructions though is a note saying that the codes must be used by 31/12/2015.

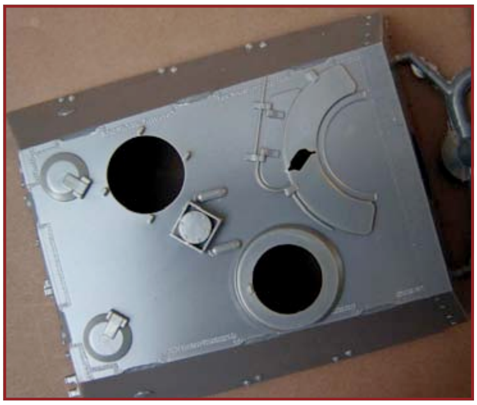
CONCLUSION

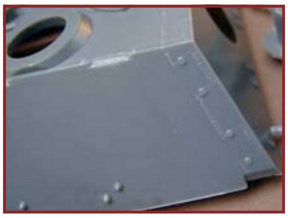
If you want accuracy then go for Dragon or Tamiya. If you want fun, this will do just nicely.

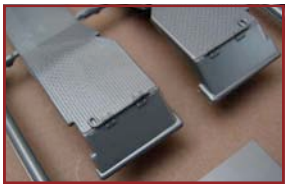
Recommended.

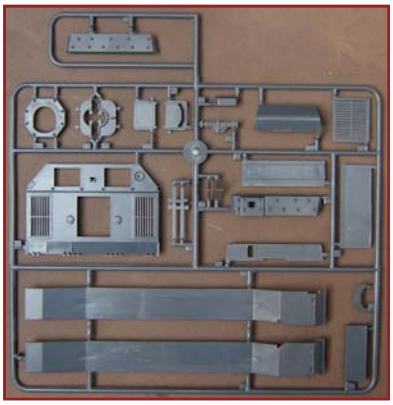
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

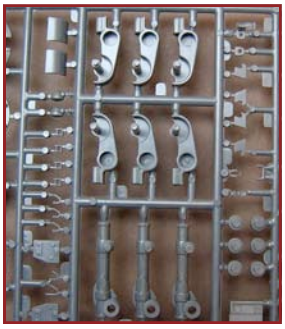
Graham Tetley

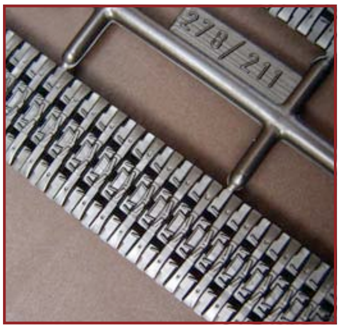


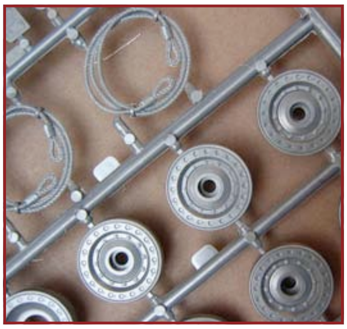


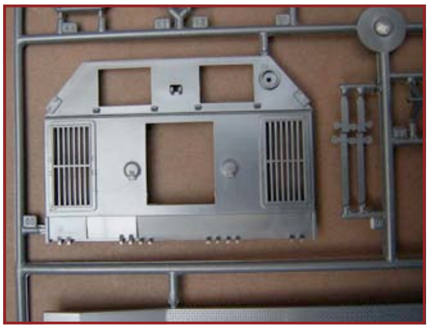


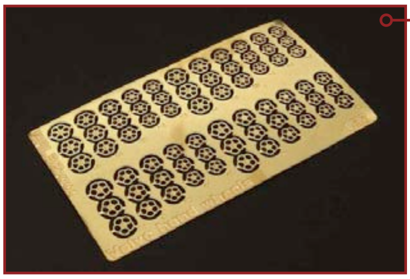


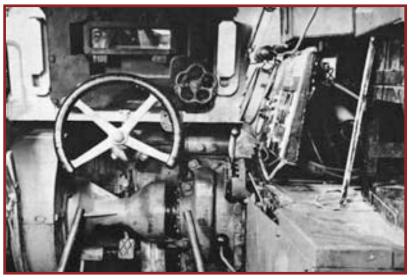












BRENGUN

1:32 AND 1:35 SCALES
VALVE HAND WHEELS (HLU32016)
VALVE HAND WHEELS (HLU35074)

Here's a simple but handy set of photo-etch valve hand wheels to 1:32 scale, although Brengun offers a similar set in 1:35 scale as well.

In reality, either set could be used interchangeably for either 1:32 or 1:35 scales, and a variety of other scales depending on the size of the generic hand wheel required.

Described by Brengun as a universal set, their potential use is indeed just so, as the possible uses are multiple in nature.

Recommended.

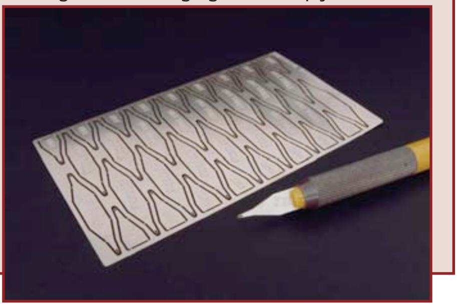
Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

Mark Davies

HAULER

SCALE NOT APPLICABLE
SUPER GLUE APPLICATORS
ITEM NO. HQT 014

Hauler has released a very handy photo-etched fret that provides numerous superglue applicators. These are for mounting in chuck-type modelling knife handles, but can also be held with forceps etc. Obviously, the applicators will become clogged with cured glue, but this can be removed using a de-bonding agent or simply burned off in a gentle naked flame. Take care though, as too much heat will melt the fine tips!

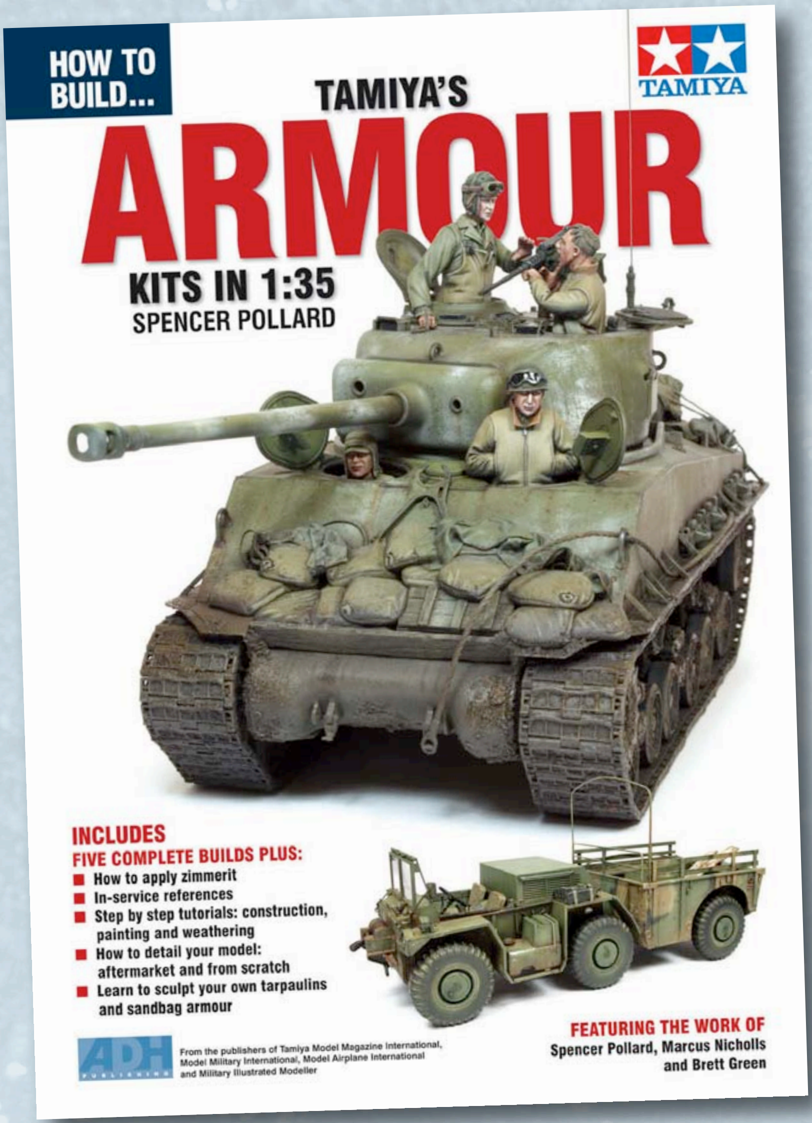


Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

Mark Davies

NEW in the 'HOW TO BUILD...' series



HOW TO BUILD...

TAMIYA

TAMIYA'S ARMOUR KITS IN 1:35

SPENCER POLLARD

INCLUDES FIVE COMPLETE BUILDS PLUS:
- How to apply zimmerit
- In-service references
- Step by step tutorials: construction, painting and weathering
- How to detail your model: aftermarket and from scratch
- Learn to sculpt your own tarpaulins and sandbag armour

ADH PUBLISHING

From the publishers of Tamiya Model Magazine International, Model Military International, Model Airplane International and Military Illustrated Modeller

FEATURING THE WORK OF
Spencer Pollard, Marcus Nicholls and Brett Green

HOW TO BUILD...
TAMIYA'S ARMOUR KITS IN 1:35

Though the modelling world is awash with an incredible variety of military vehicle kits from a huge number of different companies, one stands head and shoulders above the others in terms of originality, buildability and fun. That company is Tamiya, who have consistently provided the budding enthusiast with some of the finest kits available in the scale of 1:35.

This new book brings together five detailed features that will show what is possible from this extensive range of kits. In so doing, it offers hints and tips, detailed step-by-step guides and written descriptions on all manner of techniques from basic construction, through detailing, painting and realistic weathering. No stone is left unturned in the quest to inspire the modeller to complete similar projects for themselves. It really is a one-stop-shop for the budding military modeller!

Within its 84 pages you will five find features that take you through the construction and painting of the 'Easy Eight' Sherman, Nashorn, Elefant, Gama Goat and Tiran 5, all expertly put together by our renowned team of authors, Spencer Pollard, Brett Green and Marcus Nicholls, who have created one of the finest collections of modelling features ever published, on this famous range of kits.

This then is the world of Tamiya's wonderful 1:35 military vehicle kits – we hope that you enjoy your visit!

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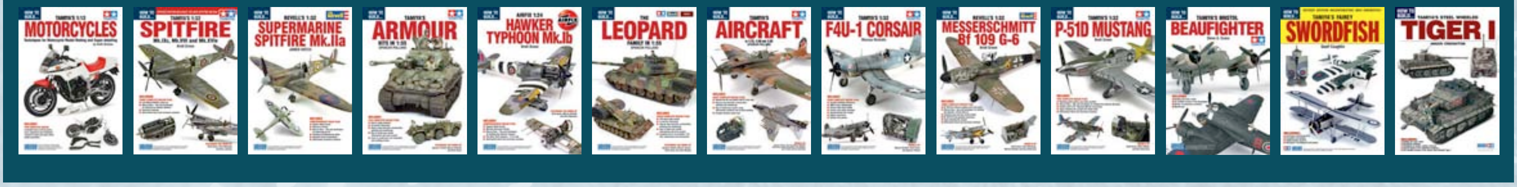

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Tamiya's Armour Kits in 1:35 book

HOW TO BUILD... ARMOUR

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Book Reviews

Camouflage Profile Guide
EASTERN FRONT
Russian vehicles 1935-1945
mig

AMMO OF MIG
EASTERN FRONT, RUSSIAN VEHICLES 1935-1945 CAMOUFLAGE PROFILE GUIDE

ITEM NO. A MIG 6007

In today's modelling community, Mig Jimenez is a well-known name, due both to the models he builds and also the products he offers from his new company AMMO Of MIG. They produce many products including books such as the one we have here. As modellers, these profile books are a welcome asset to our always-growing collection of references. This one will not disappoint.

The book comes in the form of a A4 glossy soft back publication with 79 glossy and colourful high quality paper pages.

Inside, the pages covers Russian vehicles, tanks, trucks, artillery, and armoured cars, all beautifully illustrated and coloured right down to the dirty weathered muddy condition they may have been on the battle field, giving you the modeller great ideas and starting points for your projects.

The book starts with a prologue, technical colour information, Soviet colours 1927-45, white washable paint and then onto the profiles with 86 choices to choose from, all illustrated to a very high level.

All profiles also have a caption telling you colours, unit, and area of operations. There are also 14 contemporary photos through out the pages relevant to the art work. The book then ends with, Russian Unit Identification System, Dedicatory and lastly a Bibliography.

This is a great publication to all who have a passion of this subject, whether you are an enthusiast or a model maker. Well worth adding to the collection.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson

mig
PAINTING WARGAME tanks
By Rubén Torregrosa and Mig Jiménez
A complete guide with all techniques with solutions

AMMO OF MIG

PAINTING WARGAME TANKS

ITEM NO. A MIG 6003

There have been many "how to" publications produced over the years, and here we have the latest by Mig Jimenez and Ruben Torregrosa, specifically on painting Wargaming tanks. The book comes in the form of a glossy soft cover with 89 pages filled with many photos and information. So let's have a look at the actual content. It starts with an Introduction, an Index, Intro to Materials, The Easy and Advanced Ways, The Easy Way… Sherman Early, Stuart ZM5, Panther G late, Final Tips. The Advanced Way, E100 Jagdpanzer, Panther, Panzer IV, PanzerIII, SDKFZ251, T34, Tiger 1. The Intro to Materials covers paints, pigments, washes, brushes, airbrushes and basics to get you going. The build articles are very well done in both easy and advanced modes giving you all the products and techniques required to get a very nice end result out of your projects. They are clearly done in a step-by-step process with very nice photos to give you visual reference.

I like that there is a photo of the product required at each step to get the next finished result, and also showing if you require a paint brush, airbrush or other tool.

At the same time, it seems that this book is almost like a mini catalogue for AMMO products - very handy.

The book has many techniques to share and though directed at wargaming models. These could also be used on larger projects as the principles are much the same. For a new starting modeller this would be a great book to learn from at any age.

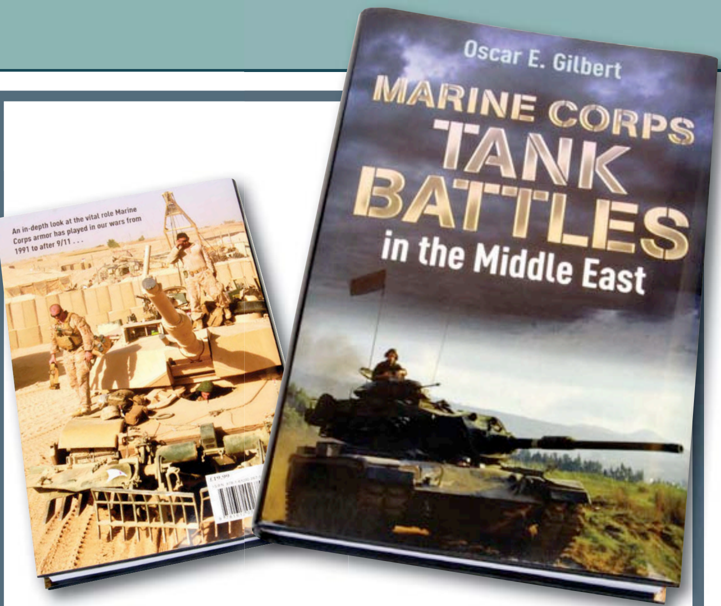
I would recommend this book to all wargamers and to those just stepping into the hobby.

A great publication indeed.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson


Oscar E. Gilbert
MARINE CORPS TANK BATTLES in the Middle East
An in-depth look at the vital role Marine Corps armor has played in our wars from 1991 to after 9/11 . . .

MARINE CORP TANK BATTLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

OSCAR E GILBERT

PUBLISHED BY CASEMATE

ISBN 978-1-61200-267-5

Being an enthusiast of modern armour and current conflicts, I must say that I jumped at this publication very happily when offered. Having gone through it, I am not at all disappointed.

The Author, Oscar E Gilbert, has written three other books on armoured warfare, Marine Tank Battles in the Pacific, Marine Tank Battles in Korea and Marine Tank Battles in Vietnam, plus other books on Marine Corps history.

The book is in presented in hard cover format in a standard novel size, printed on high quality paper.

This book covers actions in the period of 1991-2011 - Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan.

The contents of the book are as follows. Preface, Acknowledgments, Glossary, prologue, followed by Twelve Chapters… A Brutally Complex World, Operation Desert Shield, The Storm Breaks, Intervallum, Into Iraq, Bridges in the Desert-An Nasiriyah, The Low Road to Baghdad, The Prize, Return to Iraq, Tipping Point; Second Battle of Fallujah, Harrying the Insurgency, Afghanistan - Winding down.

These are followed by an Epilogue, Where are They Now, References and an Index.

This is all covered over 296 pages. There are also 16 pages of black and white photos of Marines vehicle in areas of operations with captions.

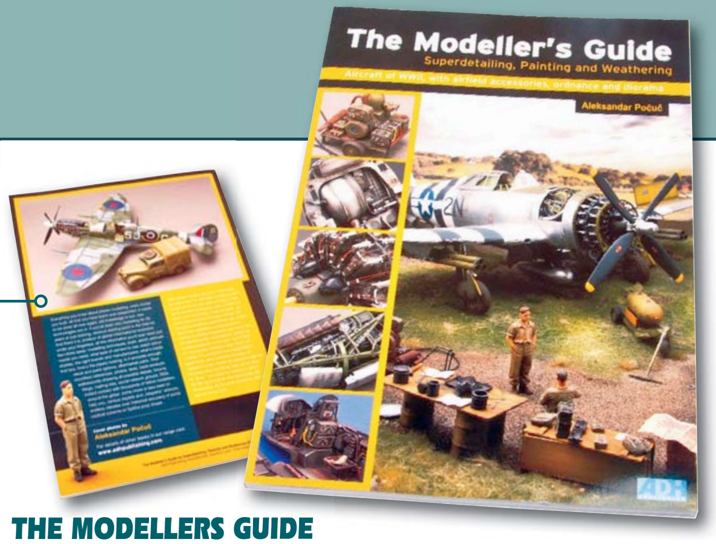
There is both good history writing and battle narrations through out this book giving the reader a good idea of what the members who served in these theatres of war went through and experienced. One can clearly see this book has been well researched by the author.

Anyone interested in modern warfare and armour should go and get themselves a copy of this book, it is well worth it.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Casemate Publishing for the sample www.casematepublishing.co.uk

Andrew Judson


The Modeller's Guide
Superdetailing, Painting and Weathering
Aircraft of WWII, with airfield accessories, ordnance and diorama
Aleksandar Počuč
ADH

THE MODELLERS GUIDE

SUPER DETAILING, PAINTING AND WEATHERING AIRCRAFT OF WWII, WITH AIRFIELD ACCESSORIES, ORDNANCE AND DIORAMA

ADH PUBLISHING

BY ALEKSANDAR POCUC

Here we are presented with a book in the form of a high gloss soft cover, A4 format with 178 glossy pages just filled with 300+ detailed photos.

For anyone who wants to start building or improve their building of aircraft models, look no further this is the book you have been waiting for. On opening the cover and having a quick look all I can say is "wow"!

Given that the broad range of subjects includes accessories, ordnance and diorama, this book will be of interest to modellers of other subjects too.

The content of the book is as follows:

- Acknowledgments
- Introduction
- A Love Story Ready to Assemble
- Chapter 1 Tools and Materials
- Chapter 2 Techniques
- Chapter 3 Building the Aircraft which covers three comprehensive builds being, Spitfire MK. IXC, P47D Thunderbolt and a JU-87D STUKA
- Chapter 4 Making a Diorama.

Looking at the chapters individually one can see that the author is extremely passionate about this hobby. The text is comprehensive and very informative, although a little broken in English at times, but this is not really a problem.

When you look at the tools and levels of detail he goes to, to build a model. He does not take short cuts in anyway at all, but his end results show, he has the know how and goods to back up his words. Looking at Techniques the same goes covering from scratch building, detailing a cockpit, further detailing and an intro to the dreaded masking up.

When you get to the individual builds, you are taken on a full on journey showing you just how full on he really is and the brilliant quality of his work from start to finish. The intricate scratch building, the paint techniques and finishes just blow your mind. This guy really is this good.

Looking at the Author's diorama work, again you can see he takes no short cuts ensuring he has the most attention to detail possible. The groundwork, the layout of the diorama, figures, equipment, its all there to a very high degree.

So I guess you can see that I'm pretty impressed with this book without a doubt. It has all the info in one publication and plenty of visual content to back it up and make an enjoyable read. I recommend this book to all, and hope it is enjoyed by you as much as it was by me.

Highly Recommended.

Available online from ADH Books www.adhbooks.com

Andrew Judson

SPITFIRE MK. IXc

Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

ICM

1:35 SCALE
SOVIET ARMOURED CAR RIDERS
KIT NUMBER 35637
FRENCH INFANTRY (1914)
KIT NUMBER 35682

Two very contrasting sets of 1:35 scale figures have just arrived for review from ICM.

Starting with WWI, we have French Infantry. Inside the box there are two sprues moulded in a tan coloured styrene, one for the figures themselves and the other features various items of personal equipment and weapons.

All parts are well moulded with only a few traces of flash here and there and the usual mould seam lines that are easily cleaned up. The detail is very good, particularly for the uniforms, and facial features are well defined. These virtually match resin aftermarket items, such is the quality. The choice of uniform is slightly odd though as it is one that was quickly replaced by the Horizon Blue uniform in 1915 so it will strictly limit the timeframe for any possible dioramas.

The uniform depicted for this set features the dark blue greatcoat, highly visible red trousers with leather ankle gaiters and a 'Kepi' for headwear rather than a helmet.

On the other sprue you have a selection of weapons and equipment including the Hotchkiss Mle 1909 and Chauchat CSRG Mle 1915 machine guns, Lebel-Berthier Mle 1916 rifle and bayonets, Ruby pistols and holsters and F-1 and OF-15 grenades, mess tins, canteens, binoculars, coffee mills, wire cutters and Adrian M1915 helmets.

I can't help thinking that if the later uniform was depicted it would give this set of figures a bit more scope but on the whole it's a good one and the weapons and equipment can be utilised for the early WW2 period.

The next set of figures depict Soviet soldiers riding on top of a BTR-70 APC from the Afghanistan conflict between 1979 and 1991. The single sprue included in the box is moulded in tan styrene and again the same comments about moulding quality can be applied here too. Detailing is very good also.

Weapons include just four AKS-74 machine guns and personal equipment is limited to water bottles and ammo pouches. All the soldiers are depicted in the standard winter uniform with the large fur collar and one of them is wearing a lighter jacket over the top. Three soldiers are wearing the 'Ushanka' (the round fur cap) while the fourth has a lighter peaked cap usually seen in the summer months, all are wearing standard leather marching boots.

The only negatives I can find in both sets and indeed with ICM kits in general are the poor quality of the instructions as black and white images with arrows pointing vaguely are not really up to current standards, although the box art can be used as a reference to a point.

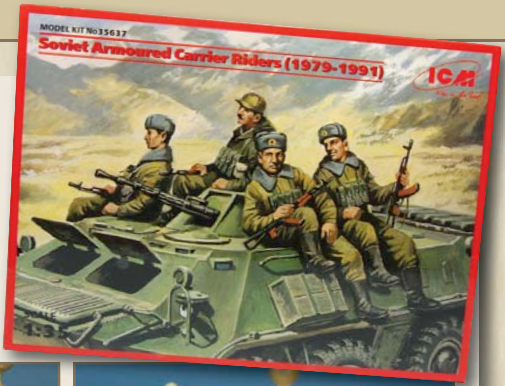
Apart from that, the overall quality is very good indeed and ICM are certainly becoming one of the best in injection-moulded figures, they certainly don't have the moulding issues seen with the stuff from a well-known manufacturer from the far East.

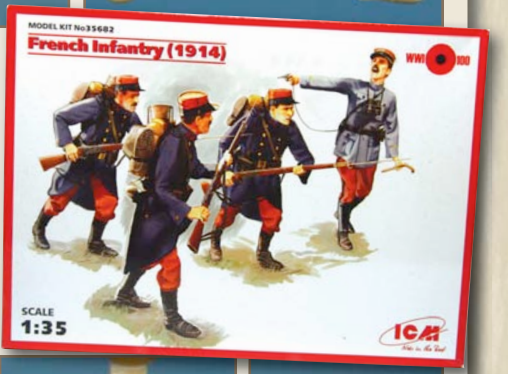
I really do look forward to seeing stuff from ICM and these sets certainly deserve the accolade of 'Highly Recommended'.

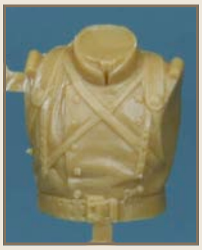
Highly Recommended.

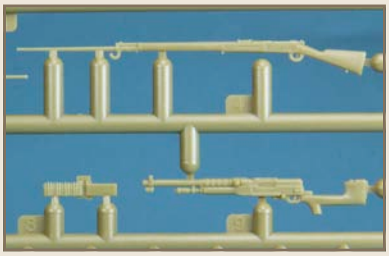
Many thanks to Creative Models Ltd for the review samples. Got any more?
www.creativemodels.co.uk

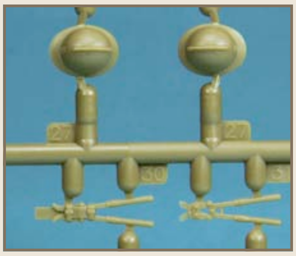
Andy King

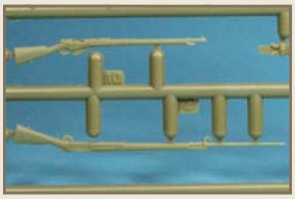












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- Waffentrager Krupp I

» and more...

Issue 88

- Inside the Armour AIO Cruiser Tank
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- Meng I:35 Merkava Mk.3 BAZ w/ Mine Roller
- Brach Models I:35 French R35
- Meng I:35 Pickup w/ZU-23-2
- I:35 Kinetic MIO9A2
- MiniArt I:35 GAZ-AA truck
- Riich Models I:35 Universal Carrier
- Dragon I:35 25 Pdr with Limber

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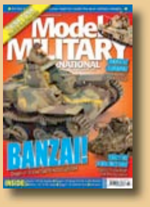

Issue 89

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- Dragon I:35 Type 95 Ha-Go
- Dragon I:35 Panzer IV Ausf. H
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- Inside the Armour AIO Cruiser
- Trumpeter I:35 8.8cm Pak 43 auf Leichte Waffentraeger
- Bronco I:35 25 pdr Ammo Set and Limber

» and more...

Issue 90

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- Meng I:35 D9R Bulldozer
- Dragon I:35 M48A3 Mod B
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- Panzer II Diorama
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- Tamiya I:35 Japanese Type I0 tank
- Dragon I:35 Flak 37
- Bronco I:35 Fiat Topolino

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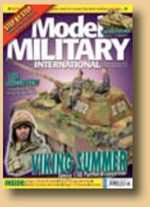

Issue 91

- I:48 Panther A Conversion
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- Dragon I:72 Churchill in a diorama
- Bronco I:35 Korean War M24 Chaffee
- Young Miniatures' I:I0 Battle of Jang-Jin Reservoir I950 bust

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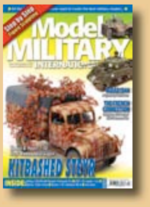

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- ICM I:35 Packard Twelve
- HobbyBoss I:35 Meng Shi
- Bronco I:35 Valentine Mk.IX
- Panda I:35 Object 279
- ICM I:35 Leader's Car

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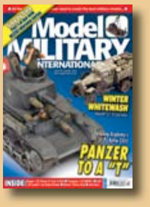

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- Bronco I:35 75mm Zrinyi
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- Trumpeter I:35 BRDM-2

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- Dragon I:35 Waffentrager Pt.2
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- Young Miniatures I:I0 British Infantryman Somme I9I6
- Dragon I:35 Zugkraftwagen It
- Meng I:35 Leopard IA3/IA4
- Bronco I:35 Korean War M24 Chaffee
- ScaleACT 20I3 Show report

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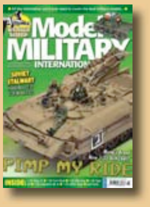

Issue 95

- HobbyBoss I:35 T-26
- Meng Model I:35 Achzarit
- WWI Tanks showcase
- Tamiya & AFV Club I:48 Sd.Kfz. 25I kits
- ICM I:35 Type G4 (W3I)
- Neo for Iwata pistol trigger airbrush
- Tamiya I:35 Ford Mutt
- Dragon I:35 SAS Jeep
- Bronco I:35 Valentine Mk.XI

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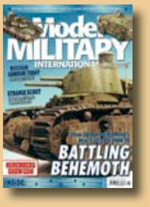

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- Resicast Wading Sherman Mk.III conv
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- Hobby Boss I:35 German Sd.Kfz. 254
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- Bronco I:35 Panzer I Ausf. F
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» and more...

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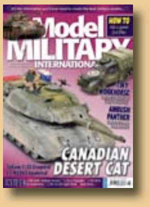
- ZiS-30 conversion from Mirror Models I:35 Komsomoletz
- Small-scale Nashorn wreck
- Takom I:35 Leopard C2 MEXAS kit and Trackjam Conversion

» and more...



Issue 98

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- Tunnel Rats In Vietnam Reference
- I:35 Vietnam War vignette
- Bronvo I:35 6 pdr
- Bronco I:35 M24 in Indochina
- Tamiya I:35 Tilly by
- Tamiya I:35 6x6 Airfield Fuel Truck
- Bronco CV-3-33

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- Bronco I:35 Versuchsflakwagen 8.8cm Flak 4I auf Sonderfahrgestell conversion
- Trumpeter I:35 2S3
- I:35 scale Tamiya T-55 Enigma upgraded
- Tamiya I:48 scale GMC CCKW 2.5 ton 750 Gal. Airfield Fuel Tanker
- Meng Model Contest at the China Hobby Show 20I4

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- Tamiya I:35 Tiger British WWI Mk.IV Male tank
- Bronco I:35 Toldi conversion
- Shizuoka Hobby Show 20I4
- Large scale Panther Commander bust
- Bronco I:35 6 pdr
- Bronco I:35 sWS Cargo Version
- Kinetic I:35 MRAP

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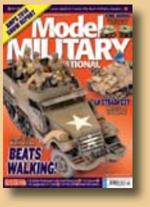

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- Amusing Hobby and Panda Object 279 Comparison
- Italeri's I:35 L6/40 Italian Tank
- Dragon I:35 Ostwind
- Dragon I:35 Jagdpanzer IV L/70(A)
- AMPS 20I4 Report

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- Panzer II Ausf. C and Polish wz.34-II armoured car in I:48
- Scratch built I:35 SS-Ki Combat Engineering Vehicle
- Dragon I:35 Sd.Kfz.I0
- Italeri I:35 LCM
- Tankfest 20I4 report

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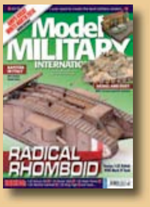

Issue 103

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- Kapitan In Italy I:35 diorama
- Heller I:35 Somua S35
- Great White North Show Report
- Bronco I:35 Panzer 35(t)
- ICM I:24 Admiral Cabriolet
- Italeri I:35 Water Tanker

» and more...

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- Dragon I:35 M6AI Heavy Tank
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- Bonehead Models 200mm SS Squad Leader
- Dragon I:35 Jagdpanzer IV L/70
- ICM I:35 V300 Maultier & Pak 36

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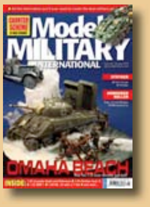

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- Puckapunyal Crusader in detail
- AFV Club I:35 MII30 Stryker CV/TACP
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- Italeri I:35 BMP-I
- Tamiya I:35 M4 Sherman showcased
- Roden I:35 Rolls-Royce Armoured Car

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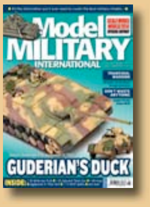

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- Scale Model World 20I4 report
- Italeri I:48 Huey

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- MiniArt's I:35 AEC Mk.I Armoured Car
- Bronco I:35 Pz.Bfwg. 35(t)

» and more...

Issue 108

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ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

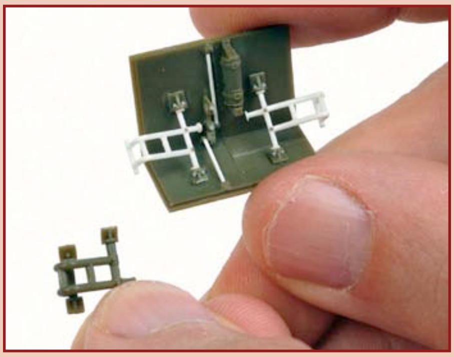
When attending modelling competitions and meeting modellers, I find that some are very passionate about research, while others more interested in presentation. Others still are just happy to attend and talk to other modellers.

I find the latter group to be the most content. They don't expect too much from either themselves or indeed the hobby. They look upon it as a "fun" thing to do. It really depends on your personally type I guess.

I find myself drawn to all camps and to be honest, I find the build process to be the most fun. The painting and presentation process can on occasion be frustrating. But both can be highly rewarding if everything goes according to plan.

One of my true pleasures in life is to view a really well done model. I often find myself in admiration other peoples work and sometimes want to emulate it.

The Internet has opened up a whole range of forums and places to view others work. These days, I generally go to Facebook. Once you trawl through all the endless pictures of cats and what people are about to eat or have eaten, it's a great place to see some truly inspirational work.



The quest for ultimate accuracy can, on occasion, tend to sap the fun factor right out of me. It's all the little details that you sometimes miss.

I used to get pretty upset when watching war movies on TV when I was younger. I thought with all these restored tanks all over the place, why on earth are they using M41 Walker Bulldogs as German tanks! As I matured, two things became abundantly clear - it's all about cost versus what people perceive. To the average punter (and this news may shock some) one tank looks pretty much like any other. I ask you this, when in conversation, does the talk turn to accuracy? My bet is, probably never.

Let's look at an example. The Tamiya 1:48 scale Marder III M kit is for all intents and purposes accurate in outline and shape and to be perfectly honest will make an outstanding model right out of the box. The rivets on the side of the armoured fighting compartment are the right size and are in the correct position, but are they accurate? Well no, the real vehicle had domed rivet heads were the kit examples are flat. Moving to the side armour itself, it's the correct shape and has the correct outline but its little too thick; does the average model builder really care? Probably not. He or she will buy it and build it. That's what it's all about, fun.

The key word here is fun, and no matter what anyone may tell you if the build or model is not fun and more and more like a job, then it might be best to take a break or try something else. You will often find that in time, you will come back with greater energy and drive to complete your next 1:48 scale project.

Until Next Time
Luke (Mr Fun) Pitt

HAULER

GERMAN MOTORCYCLE AND SIDECAR UPDATE (FOR THE TAMIYA KIT)
ITEM NO. HLX48358

You have to hand it to Hauler. They provide every new 1:48 scale release with some kind of upgrade and this set is no exception. I'll go out on a limb here, and say that this may be the very best that I have seen from this manufacturer for quite some time.

When I purchased the Tamiya kit I thought to myself, this is nice but, brother it needs some help. What we have here is a photoetch and resin upgrade that will transform a fairly average Tamiya release into a showstopper. The photo etch include finely rendered spokes for the wheels, backings for the saddle bags and associated mounting hardware. A "duck board" and machine gun mount for the sidecar and brake and throttle brackets for the motorcycle itself are also included.

Some of the photoetch such as the mud guard brackets are rendered in a flat cross section when they should be round but, these may be replaced with fuse wire.

The resin wheels are things of beauty with a lovely tread pattern in evidence into which the photo etch spokes are inserted.

This update is more than worthwhile – it is almost mandatory. It provides a sensible upgrade solution without the need for overly complex pieces or super small photo etch.

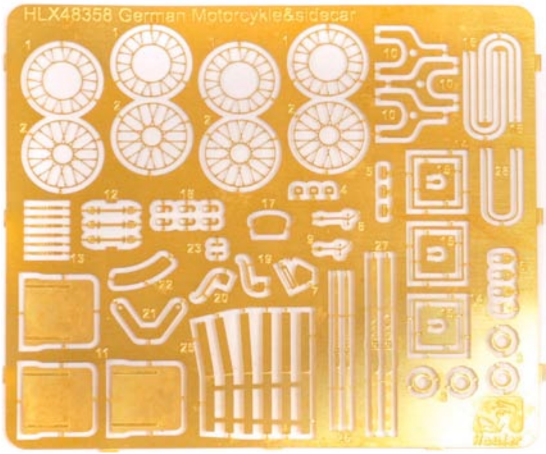
Highly Recommended.

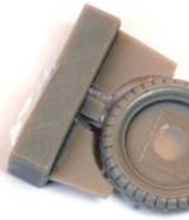
Thanks to Hauler for the review sample

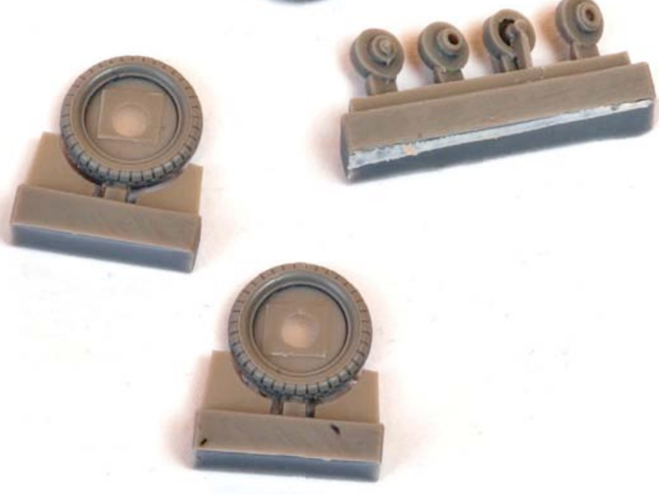
www.hauler.cz

Luke Pitt

1/48
HLX48358
German Motorcykle
&sidecar
(Tamiya)
Hauler
model accessories







Luke Pitt explores the wonderful world of 1:48 scale models and after market.

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TANK WORKSHOP

GMC “JIMMY”” ENCLOSED METAL CAB CONVERSION ITEM NO. TWS48062

Any of you that have the latest Tamiya GMC airfield fuel truck (item32579) will no doubt be aware that the cab itself has a number of shape issues. The first is that the bonnet slope is far too pronounced. This problem is shared with their first release of the cargo variant of this truck; and the flat roof cross section.

The tanker also missed out on the rear window so evident on the real vehicle.

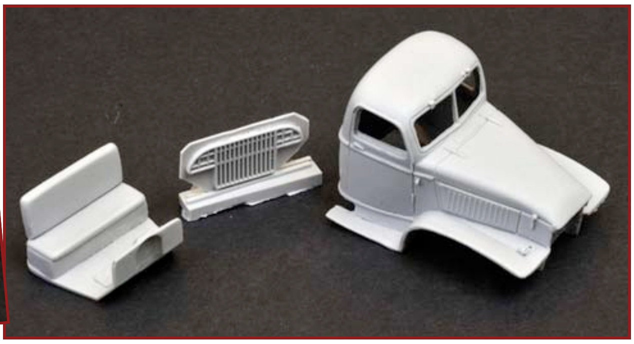
This new release addresses all of these concerns and does so in a very efficient way. The upgrade comes in just three grey resin pieces and is cast with on imperfections what so ever. It’s a simple and very cheap solution to a raft of problems besetting the Tamiya kit. The only negative is the mudguards as they seem a little thick and these would best be replaced with the Tamiya parts.

You really can’t go past this update if you want to model a metal cab version of the Jimmy. This upgrade captures the look of the original so much better that the Tamiya kit.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Tank Workshop for the review sample www.tankworkshop.com

Luke Pitt



FIGURES WITH ATTITUDE

HEAD SETS AND FIGURES

I am always impressed by the grass roots support that the 1:48 scale modelling community seems to muster. I have spoken before about a certain individual named Phillip Young. Mr Young has a great interest in the scale and, in particular, the absence of figures. He has taken it upon himself to contact various sculptors from around the globe and commission them to produce figures and heads in 1:48 scale.

His little company is called Figures with Attitude. The heads are quite outstanding and rival anything in 1:35. I had his first release set of heads and while they were a little small (suiting the first release Tamiya figures) these new ones are right on the money in terms of size and bulk.

The set consists of 13 heads and are equal to anything available in 1:35 scale, the detail is just outstanding and for $20 per set they offer outstanding value for money.

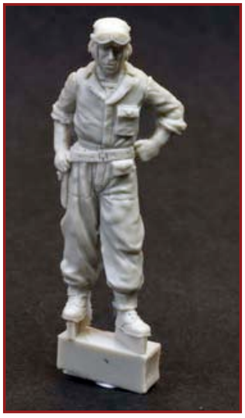
The figures are a cross section of GIs and Germans and are very well done. These retail for $10 each.

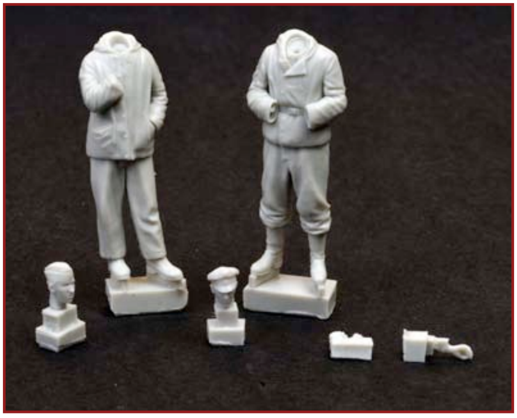
Don’t expect fancy packing - all you get is the product. However, given the quality of the product, who cares! The head set in particular is a knock-out.

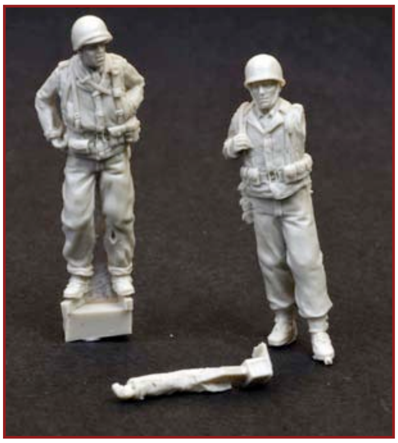
Mr Young may be contacted on the following e-mail address Pjyoung2@comcast.net. I encourage all of you to purchase some of these.

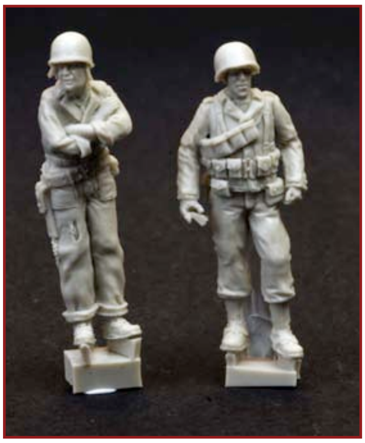
Highly Recommended.

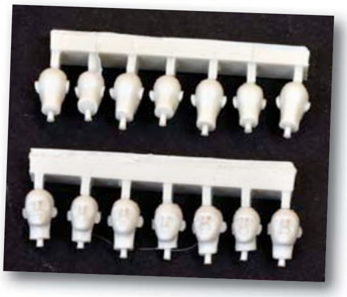
Luke Pitt

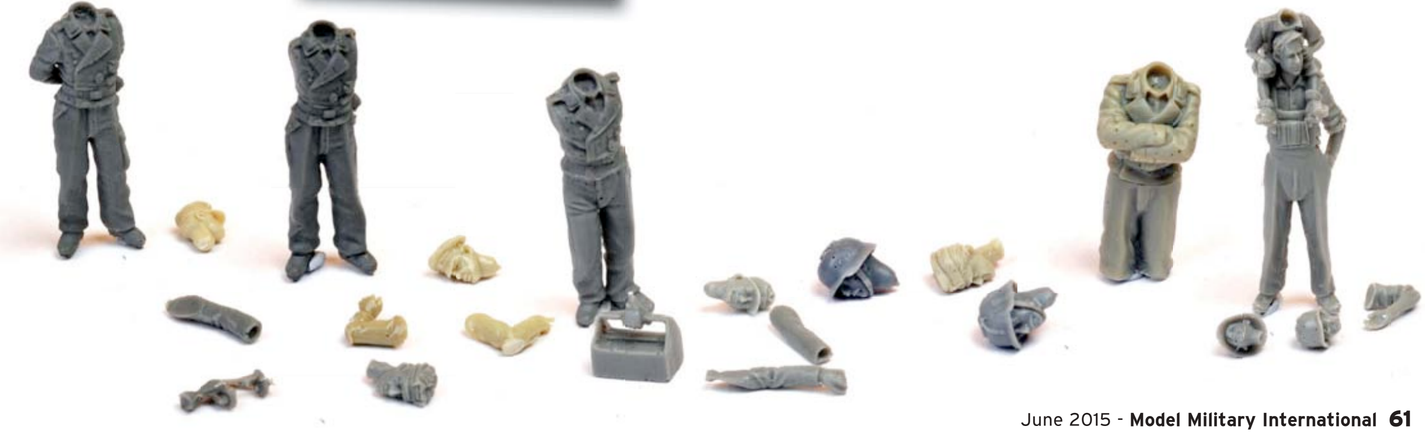












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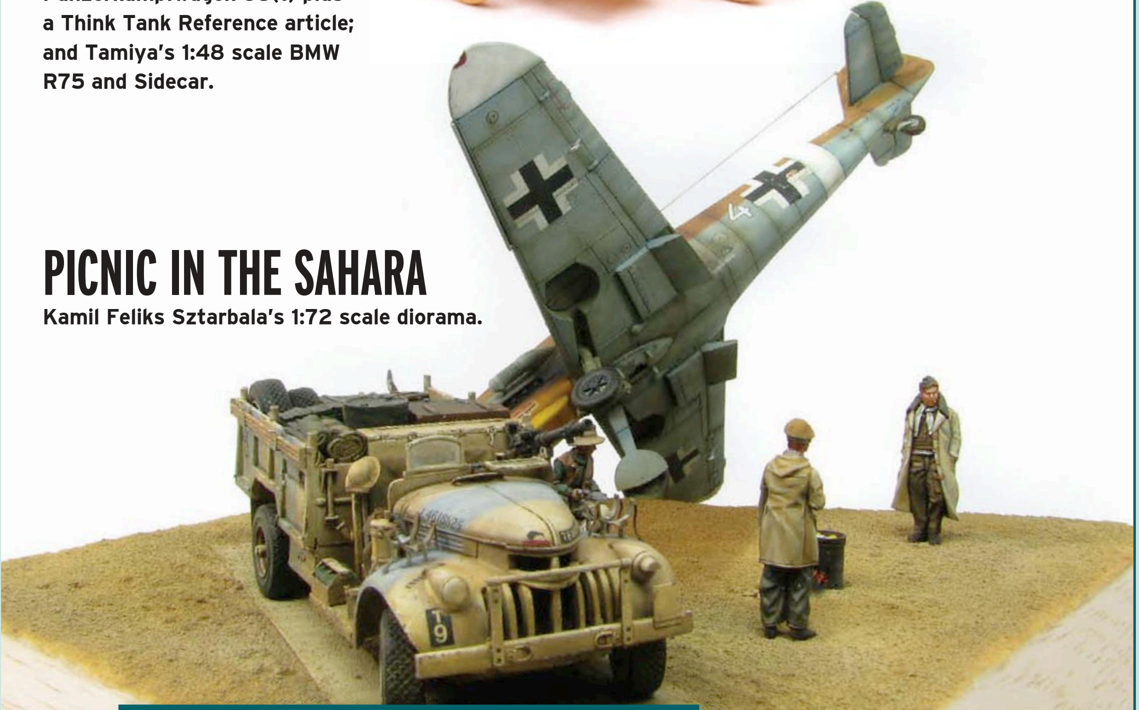
Next Issue

On sale 4th June, 2015

TAMIYA TWOFER

Tamiya's brand new 1:48 scale Panzerkampfwagen 38(t) plus a Think Tank Reference article; and Tamiya's 1:48 scale BMW R75 and Sidecar.



PICNIC IN THE SAHARA

Kamil Feliks Sztarbala's 1:72 scale diorama.

S33

Tamiya's 1:35 scale Tiger I Gallery by Chris Wauchop.

Made in China, Destroyed in Iraq

Bronco's 1:35 scale YW531, built and burnt out by Federico Collada.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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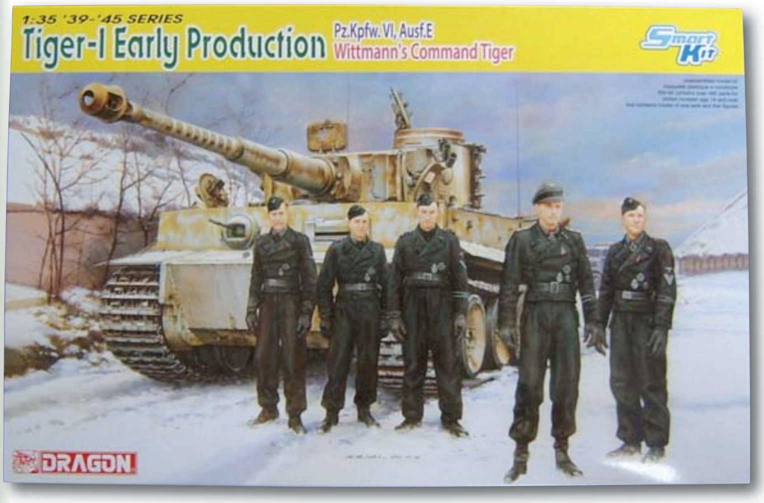
WITTMAN'S COMMAND TIGER



Graham Tetley examines Dragon's new 1:35 scale Kit No. 6730, Tiger 1 Early Production Wittman Command Tiger.

Not another Tiger I hear you cry, but yes, here is another Tiger. But not just any Tiger, no, this is Michael Wittman's Tiger. This is the third of his steeds that Dragon has released, the previous ones being the Early 'Operation Zitadell' kit 6530 and the late Befehlspanzer kit 6610, and the 17th in the Tiger line since the first came out in 2005.

SO WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

For this version Dragon has provided us with something approaching 60% of new parts. Unusually for a Dragon kit, a newly tooled set of Wittman's full crew as seen posing for propaganda photos is also including.

All told there are approximately 820 parts in the kit with 240 or so being unused. The upper and lower hull is totally new, as is the turret shell and roof. We also get new spare track, Feifel cannisters, engine grilles and various other bits. You can only really build one version from the parts in the box and the decal options show Wittman's ride plus the same tank in in Italy.

Detail throughout is outstanding, I was particularly impressed by the weld detail on the turret and the S-Mine launchers. Regular readers will know my thoughts on Dragon's DS Tracks so, without repeating myself, I will just say that they were poorly packaged, guide horns were bent at all angles and mine will be destined for the bin.

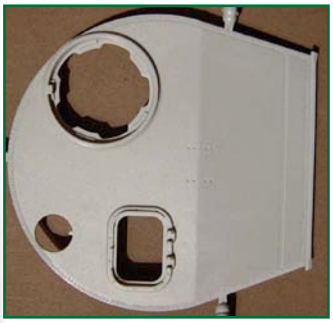
Etched parts are kept to a minimum with 27 in all comprising the pre-bent engine grille screens, radiator covers and flanges for the wheels if you want to depict the outer ones removed. Dragon's marketing blurb says that the crew figures will only be included in the initial release of the kits, but my scepticism means that I wouldn't be surprised if it is released as a separate set in the future. The figures themselves are split into the traditional separate legs, arms torsos, heads and caps. Detail is well done and the facial features are as good as a resin head set, in my opinion.

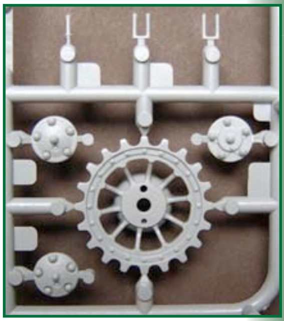
I am working on a full build review so, for the time being, enjoy this little taster of Dragon's latest Tiger. It is expensive, with a UK retail price of around £70, but the outstanding new parts are somewhat spoiled in my opinion by the shoddy DS Tracks.

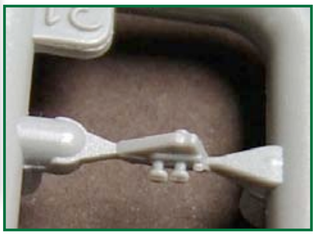
Fit of parts so far is really good and... well, you will have to wait for the rest!

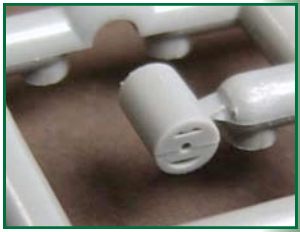
Stay tuned... ■

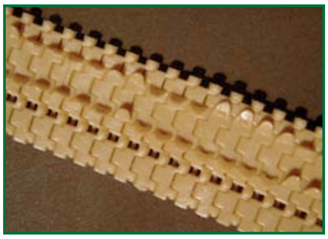
Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

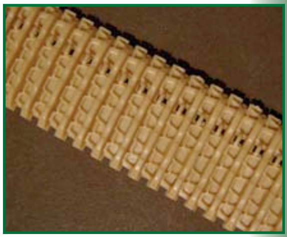

The new command version turret roof.

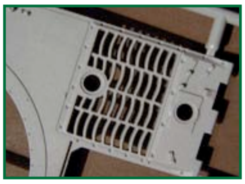

New front sprocket with alternate caps.

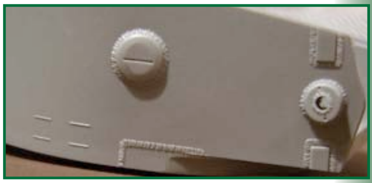

Exquisite mounts for the S-Mine launchers.

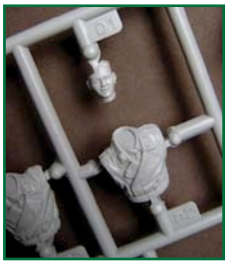

Detail on the back of the S-Mine launcher.

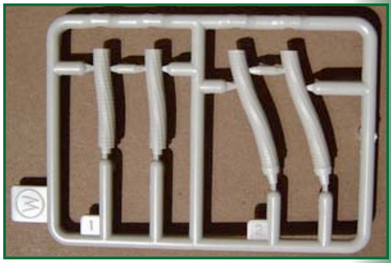

DS tracks out of the box - yuck!

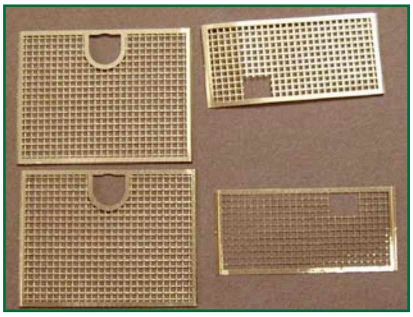

Track detail.


Close-up of the details on the rear engine deck.


Close-up of the turret wall detail.


Detail on the figures.


The Feifel hoses.

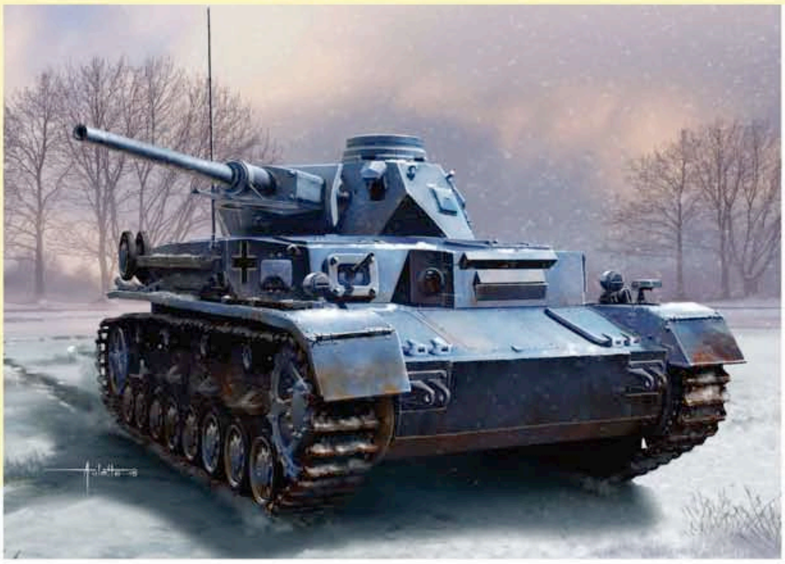

New engine grilles in brass.

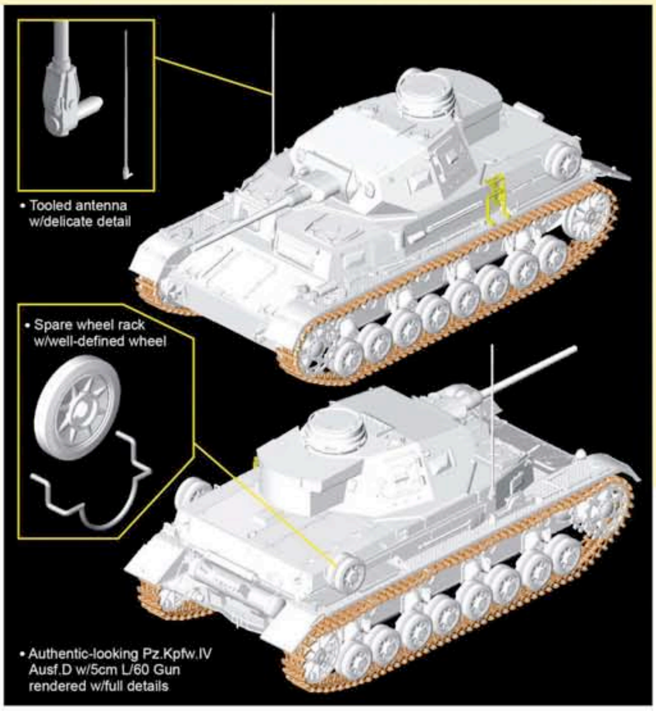
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.D w/5cm KwK L/60

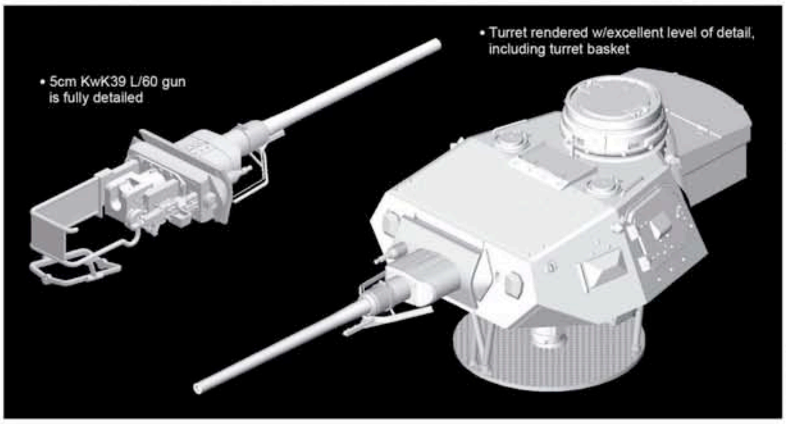
Smart Kit

Engineered for modeling enjoyment **Plastic parts with enhanced detail** **Unprecedented value** **Ready for immediate assembly!**



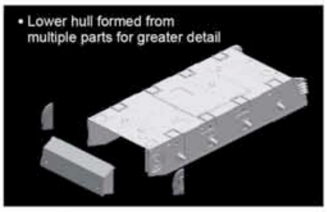


- Tooled antenna w/delicate detail
- Spare wheel rack w/well-defined wheel
- Authentic-looking Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.D w/5cm L/60 Gun rendered w/full details

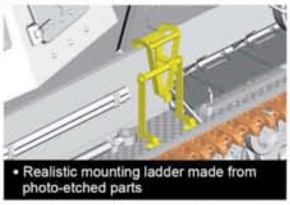


- 5cm KwK39 L/60 gun is fully detailed
- Turret rendered w/excellent level of detail, including turret basket

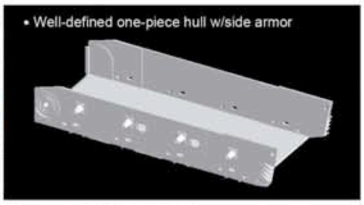
- Newly tooled road wheels for Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.D



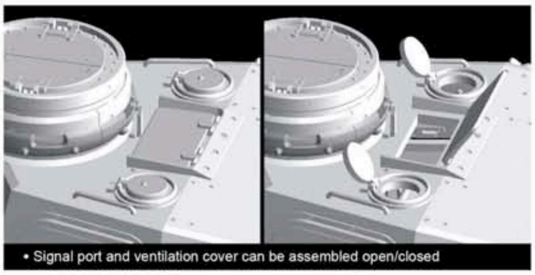
- Lower hull formed from multiple parts for greater detail



- Realistic mounting ladder made from photo-etched parts



- Well-defined one-piece hull w/side armor



- Signal port and ventilation cover can be assembled open/closed

- Storage bin can be assembled open/closed

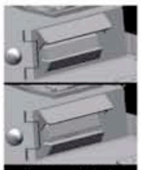
- 5-directional slide-molded commander's cupola authentically recreates structural details

- Incorporates toothed turret ring on turret interior

- Turret turntable unit included

- Vision port w/open or closed option
- Cupola hatches can be assembled open/closed

- Side hatches w/hatch hinges can be assembled open/closed



- Correct driver's vision port can be modeled open/closed

- Delicate pistol port

- Complete MG w/workable MG ball mount

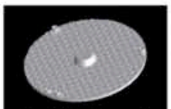
- Pistol port can be shown open/closed

- Realistic double-layered air intake

- Fans and coupling assembled w/multiple parts

- Injected fenders are made to the thinnest possible dimensions

- Muffler subtly produced



- Turntable w/accurate floor pattern

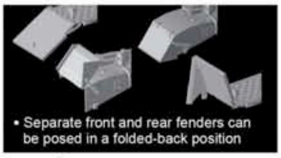
- Commander's, loader's and gunner's seats included

- Commander's hatch w/interior detail
- Clear parts for vision port sight glass

- Direct sighting port included

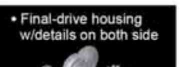
- Fuel filler cover has open/closed option

- Towing-eye brackets presented w/multiple parts

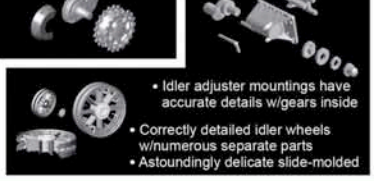


- Separate front and rear fenders can be posed in a folded-back position

- Tooled sprocket wheels w/multiple parts
- Optional bolts for added detail
- Separate armored cover for final-drive housing



- Final-drive housing w/details on both side



- Idler adjuster mountings have accurate details w/gears inside
- Correctly detailed idler wheels w/numerous separate parts
- Astoundingly delicate slide-molded

- Totally sprocket wheels w/breathtaking detail and multiple delicate parts/Optional bolts for added detail

- One-piece DS tracks

- On-vehicle tools w/defined detail

- Extendable jack, headlights and tow cables w/hollow ends produced w/subtle detail

D6736

DRAGON

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG
See the full Dragon range at www.hobbyco.net
Dragon models are available from all good model shops

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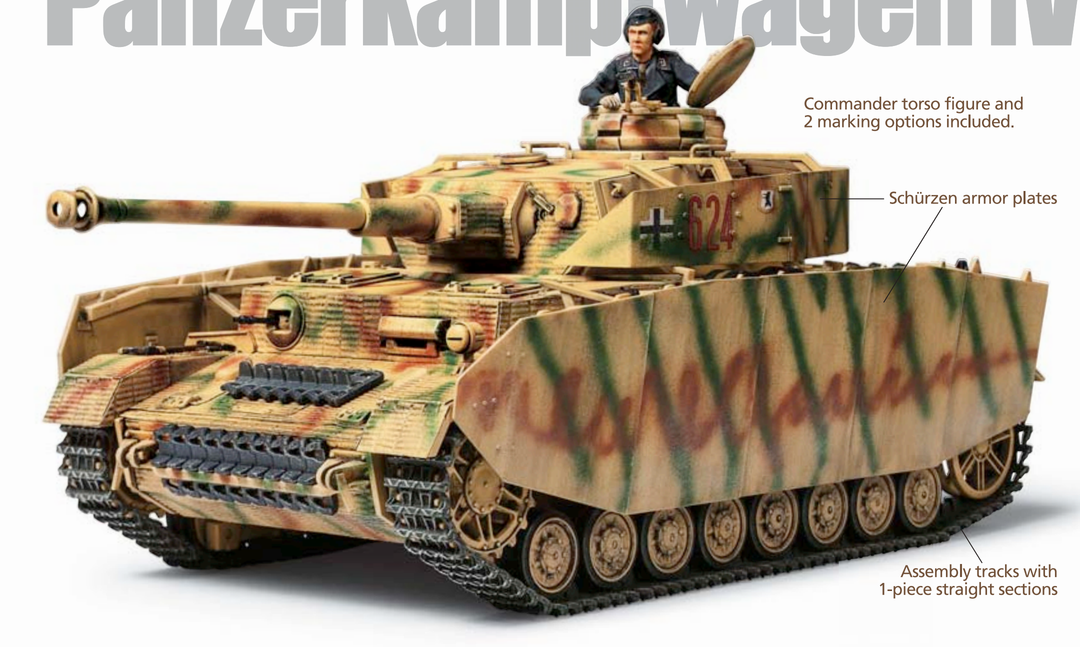
Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf.H

1/48 MM MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

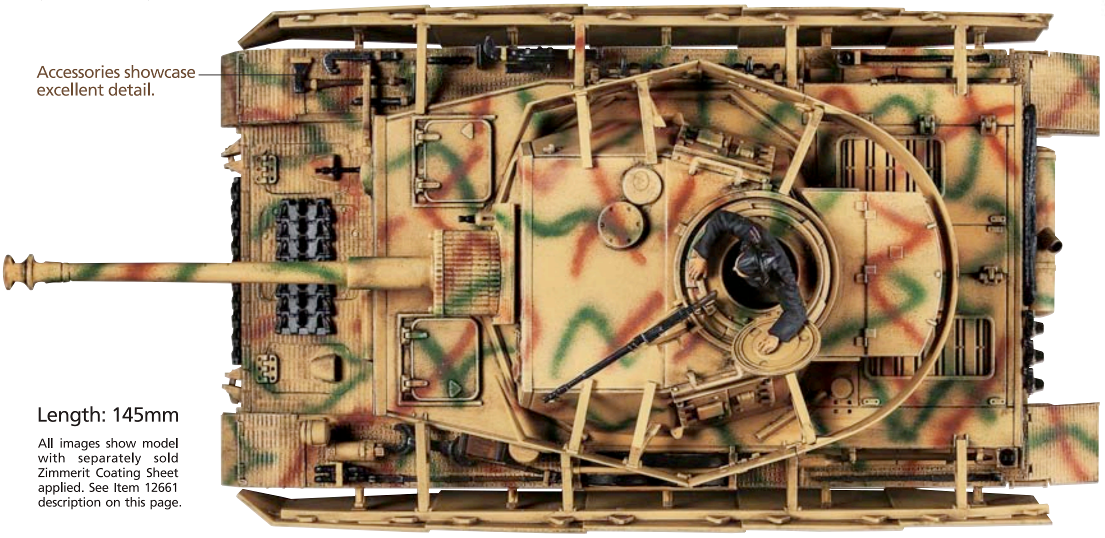

Commander torso figure and
2 marking options included.
Schürzen armor plates
Assembly tracks with
1-piece straight sections

Many acknowledge the Ausf.H as the most polished of all the variants of the long-serving German Pz.Kpfw. IV; with an intimidating long-barreled 7.5cm gun and additional anti-tank rifle protection provided by its Schürzen armor plates, it was certainly a daunting presence both offensively and defensively. Of the around 2,300 Ausf.H variants that rolled off production lines between April 1943 and February 1944, late production vehicles were notable for their steel upper return rollers and cast metal idler wheels, plus inverted V-shaped additions to track links preventing slippage. Zimmerit anti-magnetic mine coating – introduced from September 1943 - was also commonly applied. With the Ausf.H Late Production now appearing in the 1/48 Military Miniature Series, don't miss this chance to recreate perhaps the definitive Pz.Kpfw. IV in precise, compact 1/48 scale.

A Polished Panzer

1/48 Military Miniature Series
German Tank Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf.H Late Production

(Item 32584)

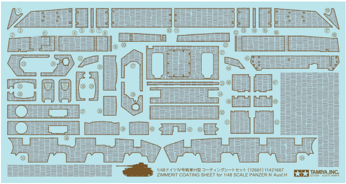


Length: 145mm

All images show model with separately sold Zimmerit Coating Sheet applied. See Item 12661 description on this page.

Add Effortless, Authentic Zimmerit Coating

This Zimmerit coating sheet product is ready to use on the brand new Pz.Kpfw. IV Ausf.H model. Simply follow the cut-out lines to remove the shaped sections of sticker from the sheet and apply to your masterpiece for a highly realistic 3D depiction of Zimmerit. Paint over the top after applying.



Zimmerit Coating Sheet for 1/48 Scale Panzer IV Ausf.H (Item 12661)

GOES ON SALE SIMULTANEOUSLY!

★The Ausf.H variant form complete with turret and hull Schürzen is rendered with great accuracy. ★Separate parts are used to depict auxiliary muffler. ★Late production tracks, upper return rollers and idler wheels are all faithfully captured. ★Comes with a wide variety of tools and accessories. ★Hull interior weights give an authentically heavy feel.

Other Selected Legends in 1/48 Scale

The 1/48 Military Miniature Series may be compact in size, but it is certainly not short on legendary subjects, with various German, U.S., Russian vehicles and more awaiting your purchase. The models shown below all feature die-cast metal chassis for an incredibly authentic weighty feel.

1/48 MM MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

German Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.B (Item 32507)

German Tank Destroyer Hetzer Mid Production (Item 32511)

German Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf.J (Item 32518)

German Panther Type G (Item 32520)

German Panzerkampfwagen III Ausf.L (Item 32524)

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German Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G (Item 32525)

German King Tiger "Production Turret" (Item 32536)

U.S. Medium Tank M4 Sherman Early Production (Item 32505)

Russian Tank T34/76 Model 1941 (Cast Turret) (Item 32515)

TAMIYA
TAMIYA,INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA,SURUGA-KU,
SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN

★Images show assembled and painted model kits. ★Products may vary from images shown.